



Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-88-039
Monday
29 February 1988

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Japan

Takeshita To Expedite U.S. Farm Trade Talks

*OW291013 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT
29 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 29 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita Monday urged the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to expedite talks with the United States on the controversial beef and orange trade dispute.

Takeshita made the request when he summoned Yasuo Goto, vice minister of the ministry, to his official residence in Tokyo, officials said. Goto explained that the atmosphere surrounding the talks is still tense.

He pointed out that although some U.S. industrialists favor a realistic settlement of the dispute by allowing Japan to boost import quotas, U.S. trade negotiators still insist that Japan specify the timetable for the full decontrol of the two important agricultural items, the officials said.

Washington has threatened to bring the issue to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) unless Tokyo fails to come up with a liberalization schedule by March 31, when a bilateral import quota agreement expires.

U.S. Request 'Unacceptable'

*OW271015 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT
27 Feb 88*

[Text] Kitami, Hokkaido, Feb. 27 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party will never accept a United States request to liberalize Japan's imports of beef and oranges within two years after this March 31, LDP Policy Board Chairman Michio Watanabe said Saturday.

Watanabe, speaking at a lecture session at Kitami, said that Japan will continue to offer the United States an increase in import quotas.

A high-ranking U.S. official, who requested anonymity, said Friday that the United States has asked Japan to remove its import quota system within two years. The official threatened to take retaliatory action against Japan if Japan does not comply with the request.

Report on Request Discounted

*OW270503 Tokyo KYODO in English 0438 GMT
27 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Hideo Maki, director general of the Economic Bureau of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry Saturday denied a report that the U.S. has proposed that Japan scrap its beef and citrus products import quota within two years.

But the farm trade negotiators, who held talks in mid-February with his [as received] U.S. counterpart, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Michael Smith, refused further comment on the report.

A high-ranking U.S. Government official, who requested anonymity told KYODO News Service the Reagan administration has asked Japan to terminate its import quota on high-quality beef, fresh oranges and orange juice within two years after next March 31 when a bilateral agreement is to expire.

Public Works Talks With U.S. To Resume

*OW290953 Tokyo KYODO in English 0923 GMT
29 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 29 KYODO—Japan and the United States will soon resume talks on wider access for U.S. business firms to Japan's public works projects, government sources said Monday.

A Japanese negotiating team will leave for Washington Tuesday or Wednesday, the sources said.

The two countries had their first round of talks in Tokyo February 17-19, but failed to reach an agreement.

During the first round, Japan offered a list of six projects and streamlined procedures for American companies.

The United States, dissatisfied with the Japanese offer, said the list only opens the door to a very narrow range of American construction firms and precludes participation by architectural and management services firms.

The list includes two airport projects—the expansion of the Tokyo International Airport at Haneda, southern Tokyo, and the construction of a new airport in Hiroshima.

Civil Aviation Agreement Talks To Resume

*OW270829 Tokyo KYODO in English 0653 GMT
27 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Civil aviation authorities from Japan and the U.S. have agreed to resume talks to revise the bilateral civil aviation agreement, Transport Ministry officials said Saturday.

After two days of unofficial meetings which ended Friday in Washington, both parties agreed to go back to the negotiating tables after almost a year since the talks broke down in last March, said the officials.

The participants of the Washington meetings comprised high-ranking officials of the Japanese Transport Ministry and the U.S. Transportation Department. The timetable for the next negotiations has yet to be settled.

At the resumed talks, Japan is expected to demand that two Japanese airliners, All Nippon Airways and TOA domestic airlines, be allowed to operate flights to Honolulu.

USSR's Gerasimov Meets Senior Officials

OW270921 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov talked with senior Japanese Foreign Ministry officials at the Foreign Ministry Saturday, Japanese officials said.

No political affairs were discussed at the session, the officials said.

Gerasimov is currently on a four-day visit to Japan since Thursday at the invitation of the Japanese mass media.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yoshifumi Matsuda and Kazutoshi Hasegawa, director of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, were among those who talked with Gerasimov, the officials said.

USSR Confirms Agreement on Airline Service

OW270625 Tokyo KYODO in English 0445 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union have exchanged notes to confirm their agreement that a designated Japanese airline will be given the privilege of overflying Siberia in and after April, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The ministry said the notes were exchanged between Japanese and Soviet Government officials in Moscow Friday.

Under the agreement, the number of 747 jumbo jet flights over Siberia by the Japanese side will be increased from 9 to 16 per week, and of these, the nonlanding flights will be increased from 6 to 13.

The number of Soviet Il-62 flights on the Siberian route will be increased from 10 to 14 weekly for six months in the summer and to 12 flights weekly for six months in the winter.

The number of Soviet cargo flights on the Khabarovsk-Niigata route will be increased from one to two weekly and for passenger flights from one to two weekly for six months in the summer and one flight for six months in the winter.

Salmon Fishing Talks With USSR Begin

OW291249 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT
29 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 29 KYODO—The Soviet Union, at the start of its annual fishery talks here with Japan, formally admitted the possibility Monday that it will propose a total ban on Japan's offshore salmon fishing in northern waters.

The Soviet delegation made it clear that it will stress the irrationality of catching salmon before they return to their mother rivers in the Soviet Union for spawning, Japanese officials said.

The talks—a meeting of the bilateral fisheries committee—are designed to fix Japan's salmon catch quota for this year and conditions for the operation of Japanese fishing boats.

The Soviet side also expressed the hope of settling problems "not attributable to the Soviet Union," which it said are retarding the proposed cooperation between Japanese and Soviet fisheries corporations.

This amounted to an implied charge that Japan is delaying a joint venture plan for production of Alaskan pollack paste.

The Fisheries Agency is withholding the go-ahead for the plan pending the adjustment of fishing grounds, because it will necessitate the fleet of a major Japanese fishery firm, a party to the joint venture, entering fishing grounds now covered by smaller Japanese fishing boats.

But the expressing of the Soviet intent to take up the matter threatens to complicate the current Tokyo talks, fishery sources said.

At the first-day session, Japan said salmon runs in northern waters are recovering steadily, and asked the Soviet Union to pay full heed to the plight of Japanese fishermen whose catch quota has been reduced by the Soviets.

But the Soviet side disputed the Japanese evaluation of salmon runs, and said that last year many Japanese fishing boats violated rules agreed upon between the two countries.

The Soviet Union has been pressing for a halt to Japan's offshore salmon fishing in northern waters ever since the United Nations adopted a Law of the Sea calling for protecting the rights of the states of origin of anadromous fish.

Uno Comments on Maintaining Treaty With PRC
OW290359 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT
29 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 29 KYODO—Japan and China should maintain the 1978 bilateral peace treaty eternally as called for in its Article 1, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno said Monday.

Uno said this at a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee in response to opposition Komeito member Koji Morimoto.

The foreign minister said Japan hopes the treaty will remain in force beyond October 1988, when either of the two countries could terminate it.

Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, in an interview with the ASAHI SHIMBUN published on Sunday, said he hopes to maintain the pact.

Uno said the 1972 joint communique and the peace treaty have helped the two nations to pave their ties into a very good course in the past decade.

The five-article Japan-China Peace and Amity Treaty was signed in August 1978 and came into force two months later, six years after the 1972 Shanghai Communique which restored diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Article 5 says either of the two countries can terminate the pact following its initial 10-year term.

Article 1 says the purpose of the treaty is to develop a lasting peace and friendship between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and territory, noninterference, equality and peaceful coexistence.

Uno's March-July Itinerary Previewed
OW271241 Tokyo KYODO in English 0923 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno will pay a round of calls to Asian countries from March through July to spell out his diplomatic initiatives, Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday.

Uno will first visit South Korea March 19-21 for a regular consultation with his South Korean counterpart Choe Kwang-su, as agreed upon during the summit meeting of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and President No Tae-u on Thursday.

Among topics on the agenda will be a creation of a joint consultative group to promote Japan-South Korea ties, which will become an advisory body to both governments.

The foreign ministers will also discuss Japan's trade surplus with South Korea, which amounted to 4.7 billion dollars in 1987, and South Korea's request for better treatment of Korean residents in Japan, the sources said.

South Korea may ask Japan to help it promote exchanges with communist bloc countries, particularly China and the Soviet Union, with which Seoul has no diplomatic relations, they said.

The foreign minister plans to visit a few provincial cities before arriving in Seoul on March 20. On the following day, he will meet Choe and pay calls on President No and Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae, the sources said.

Uno will leave around April 30 for a nine-day tour of China, Indonesia and Singapore. Prime Minister Takeshita is expected to visit Western European countries in the same period when the Diet (parliament) is in a recess.

He will first fly to Hong Kong, the free economic zone of Shenzhen Guangdong Province, and Shanghai before arriving in Beijing on May 2.

On May 3, Uno will have a regular session with the Chinese foreign minister before leaving China the following day to visit Indonesia and Singapore.

China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), is scheduled to go into session March 25 and may reshuffle the cabinet. China's foreign minister is currently Wu Xueqian.

Uno hopes to meet senior leader Deng Xiaoping, Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang and Acting Premier Li Peng, who is expected to be the full-fledged premier after the NPC session.

The Japanese and Chinese foreign ministers will discuss Japan's next aid package to China starting in 1991.

Prime Minister Takeshita also plans to visit China for five days starting around August 26.

Uno will also go to Bangkok in early July for talks with his counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which links Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The ASEAN foreign ministers are scheduled to meet in the Thai capital July 4-5 in an annual regular session.

Following the talks with ASEAN foreign ministers, Uno will head for Malaysia and Brunei, the sources said.

Following his appointment as foreign minister last November, Uno visited the Philippines with Takeshita who talked with ASEAN leaders.

Uno Asks Firms To Restrict RSA Trade

OW270750 Tokyo KYODO in English 1453 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno asked top Japanese business leaders Friday to reduce this year's trade with South Africa below the 1987 level, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The business representatives nodded their agreement, said the official in a briefing to reporters.

Uno's request followed mounting international criticism of Japan for outpacing the United States to become South Africa's largest trading partner in 1986.

In 1987, the two-way trade increased a sharp 19.3 percent to 4.27 billion dollars and in yen terms rose 2 percent to 620 billion yen, according to customs clearance figures.

Earlier this week, the United States Congressional Black Caucus as part of its international antiapartheid campaign sent a letter to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita urging Japan to end its trading ties with Pretoria.

Uno made his request in a meeting with Eishiro Saito, chairman of the powerful Keidanren (Federation of Economic Organizations), and 12 top Keidanren officers, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Among them were Eiji Toyoda, chairman of Toyota Motor Corp., Takuji Matsuzawa, adviser to F.uji Bank Ltd., and Toshikuni Yahiro, chairman of Mitsui and Co.

In response to Uno's request to show greater restraint in trade with South Africa, Saito replied that his organization will work closely with the ministries of foreign affairs and international trade and industry to meet the request, the official said.

The business representatives, however, failed to present any substantive plan to reduce the trade, he said.

During the two-hour meeting, the foreign minister also asked the business world to prevent a recurrence of violations of COCOM (Coordinating Committee) [for Multilateral Export Controls] rules restricting trade with the communist bloc.

Toshiba Machine Co., a subsidiary of the No. 2 general electric machinery maker Toshiba Corp., was accused last year of selling sophisticated milling machines to the Soviet Union in violation of COCOM controls.

Uno also expressed caution about Japan's huge trade surpluses, which came to 96.4 billion dollars in 1987, and worries about a possible U.S. protectionist bill.

The foreign minister told Saito that his ministry will soon open consultations with the Labor Ministry on how to manage the increasing number of foreign workers flowing into Japan.

Aoki Corp Said Linked to Panama's Noriega

OW271035 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, Feb. 27 KYODO—The Panamanian Government of strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega Morena will fall in a few weeks because of the worsening financial situation in the country, a former presidential aide predicted Saturday.

Jose I. Blandon, a former confidant of Noriega, said in an exclusive interview with KYODO News Service that he has already arranged for Noriega to seek asylum either in the Dominican Republic or Brazil.

Blandon, former Panamanian consul general in New York, remains under protection by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) following his testimony in Congress last February on drug trafficking and intelligence activities conducted by the Noriega regime.

The U.S. Administration subsequently decided to suspend 14 million dollars of aid to Noriega's administration because of drug smuggling and suppression of human rights in the country.

"I think the situation is getting worse for Noriega. It's in a state of coup. The financial situation in Panama is so bad that the government cannot support this situation for more than three or four weeks," Blandon said.

Blandon, who was also a director general of the state run power company said Noriega tried to seek financial aid from Japan through South Korean lobbyist Pak Tun-sung and give a favor to Aoki Construction Co. of Japan with which he has a long personal relationship.

Pak and retired Adm. Daniel Murphy, former chief assistant to U.S. Vice President George Bush, met in Panama last November to discuss measures to cope with the U.S. aid suspension, he said.

At this meeting, the two prepared plans for Pak to work on the Japanese Government of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to provide aid to Panama in return for a four-point democratization program to be pledged by Noriega.

The program was to include holding re-elections, removing restrictions on the freedom of the press and restoring civil rights for the Panamanians.

The plans failed to materialize because there were moves to indict Noriega, Blandon said.

He said he was informed of these plans by Noriega but added he did not know whether Pak met Takeshita.

Pak had tried to have Takeshita and President Reagan discuss aid to Panama during their summit in Washington last January, he said.

Pak was indicted in connection with the "Koreagate" in the United States in 1977. Recent U.S. news reports said he has resumed his activities.

Pak was quoted as telling Noriega he has connections with Takeshita and also Shintaro Abe, secretary general of the Japanese ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Blandon said he could not confirm that Pak did meet with the Japanese leaders.

He added that Aoki has "a very long relation" with Noriega.

Noriega tried to award a contract to Aoki for the 80 million dollar second phase of the Fortuna hydropower project in 1985, although the company ranked fourth in international bidding, he said.

The offer made by a Swedish company which won the contract was not disclosed but Blandon said Aoki's offer was 41-42 million dollars against 21-23 million dollars by a Yugoslavian firm, which ranked third.

The Swedish company was finally awarded the contract in 1987 under pressure from the World Bank.

Blandon said he was discharged as director general of the power company because he resisted Noriega's attempt to grant Aoki the contract.

He claimed Aoki donated one million dollars to former President Dr. Nicolas Ardito Barletta to support him in the 1984 presidential election.

Aoki also purchased the resort island of Contadora at a low price of 7 million dollars.

"I cannot say that he (Aoki) gave something to Noriega but usually Noriega okayed the business if you paid something to him but, I cannot tell you how Aoki paid for that," Blandon said.

The island was used for drug smuggling by Noriega in 1982, he said.

Aoki Denies Allegations

OW271333 Tokyo KYODO in English 1149 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Aoki Corp. denied Saturday it received favors from Panamanian strongman Gen. Antonio Noriega Morena in return for political donations.

"It's news to us. We are surprised by the report," said company spokesman Hiroshi Terao.

He was commenting on remarks made by a former aide to Noriega that the company donated 1 million dollars to former Panamanian President Dr. Nicolas Ardito Barletta in the 1984 presidential election.

Terao said it is unbelievable that the company would have such a close relationship with a particular person and offer funds to him.

He said there was no way that Panamanian leaders could do Aoki any favors in international biddings.

Aoki won a contract for the first phase of a hydropower project in Panama, but failed to win a contract for the second phase of the project.

"This proves that we received no special favors from Panamanian leaders," Terao said.

Company officials said the price paid by the company for Contadora Island was reasonable.

Takeshita and Abe brushed aside the report attributed to Blandon. Takeshita has not received a request for aid to Noriega nor did he meet Pak [Tun-sung], said his aides.

Officials at Abe's office denied he had a close relationship with Pak. Abe exchanged greetings with Pak at a party once but they have not met recently, his aides said.

Aoki Corp. is the top Japanese firm operating in Panama. It has been engaged in various construction projects in the country since 1976.

It participated in repairs to the Panama Canal and in the construction of fishing ports and dams.

Its present president, Hiroyoshi Aoki, is a former Finance Ministry bureaucrat and served as a secretary to former Chief Cabinet Secretary Tomisaburo Hashimoto.

He joined the company after retiring from politics in 1966, and is said to have a close relationship with Takeshita.

Government To Appoint Committee on ROK
OW280747 Tokyo KYODO in English 0627 GMT
28 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—Japan is selecting its members of the 21st Japan-South Korea Committee which is to be instituted following an agreement reached in summit talks last Thursday, government sources said Sunday.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and new South Korean President No Tae-u agreed at the meeting to institute the so-called "wisemen's group" to review relations between the two countries from medium- and long-term perspectives.

The sources said Japan plans to announce the Japanese members for the committee in a bilateral foreign ministerial meeting to be held in Seoul on March 21.

About seven members, expected to be selected from scholars and experts in various fields, will be appointed by each side for the committee.

Among candidates for the Japanese members are Shozo Hotta, adviser and honorary chairman of Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. and Ryozo Sunobe, former ambassador to Seoul, the sources said.

The committee is expected to be instituted in and after this summer, they said. It was first proposed by South Korea in a Japan-South Korea regular Cabinet ministerial meeting held in Tokyo in December 1986.

The two countries also agreed last May to set up subcommittees on economics, science and technology and three other fields.

Bank Continues Policy To Expand Demand
*OW290643 Tokyo KYODO in English 0622 GMT
29 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 29 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita said Monday the central bank will continue its flexible money policy and monitor commodity prices to ensure sustained economic growth led by an expansion of domestic demand.

Sumita said Japan's money supply has kept swelling faster than the real side of the economy, encouraged by lower interest rates and the operating ratio of factories. He made the remarks at a privately organized lecture meeting.

"Prices remain extremely stable. But the goods and labor markets are stiffening [as received]," Sumita said. "The operating ratio of factories is higher, with employment conditions improving. The inventory of goods is shrinking."

Sumita stressed the possibility of speculative moves to boost inventories of products and industrial materials as a result of lower interest rates, which he said would trigger an upsurge in commodity prices. "Stable prices will lay the foundation of long-term and sustained economic growth, led by an expansion of domestic demand," he said.

He went on to say that the world economy will continue to grow because of policy coordination among industrialized democracies.

"The Louvre accord of the Group of Seven developed countries in February 1987 is working well, Sumita said. "The U.S. twin deficits (in the trade and budget spheres) are tending toward improvements."

The central bank official, however, added that stock and foreign exchange markets are still unstable because of wide external imbalances.

Banks Bid for Mexican Debt-Swap Bonds
*OW270837 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT
27 Feb 88*

[Text] New York, Feb. 27 KYODO—Japanese banks submitted bids totaling some one billion dollars in an international bidding for Mexico's new debt-swap bonds aimed at easing Mexico's debt burden, Japanese bank sources said here Friday.

The sources said Japan's long-term trust banks like Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan were optimistic about their bids to exchange debts for new bonds, guaranteed by U.S. Treasury bonds, while city banks tendered smaller bids for new bonds.

The results of the offering, in which the deadline was Friday night, are expected to be released by the Mexican Government early next week, they said.

Under the plan, the Mexican Government agreed to swap 20-year U.S. zero-coupon bonds of up to 10 billion dollars for bank loans but, the sources said, the bids are likely to fall far below the Mexican target.

Kenichi Kamiya, president of Mitsui Bank, earlier expressed his complaints about the Mexican proposal, saying that under the plan the principal amount from the bank loans is backed by the U.S. Government but the interest is not covered.

The sources noted that major U.S. commercial banks, including Bankers Trust of New York, did not participate and other U.S. banks are taking a negative view of the deal.

Airport Opponents Suspected of Burning Buses
*OW290135 Tokyo KYODO in English 0121 GMT
29 Feb 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 29 KYODO—Four limousine buses operating between central Tokyo and Haneda Airport were set ablaze early Monday morning in a suspected arson by extreme radicals opposed to the expansion of New Tokyo International Airport at Narita, police said.

Police said the suspected arson occurred at a parking lot in Tokyo's Nishishinjuku around 4:35 a.m. In addition to the four destroyed buses, there were six other buses and four passenger cars at the parking lot.

Police said a group of leftists opposed to the second-phase construction of the airport at Narita might have planted fire-setting devices in the four buses.

The buses, used for transporting passengers between hotels in Shinjuku and Haneda Airport, were parked since late Sunday night. The parking area was unguarded.

Takeshita Discusses Tax Reform Issue

OW290945 Tokyo KYODO in English 0741 GMT
29 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 29 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita reaffirmed Monday his resolve to go ahead with a sweeping tax reform, Liberal Democratic Party sources said.

Takeshita, attending a meeting of senior government and LDP officers at his official residence, said the government and the LDP are pushing ahead with their policy despite a defeat in a House of Councillors by-election in Osaka.

On Sunday, Japan Communist Party member Hidekatsu Yoshii beat LDP and Socialist candidates to win a seat in an upper house by-election in Osaka.

This put the power balance in the upper chamber at 143 for the LDP; 42 for the Japan Socialist Party; 23 for Komeito; 17 for the JCP; and 12 for the Democratic Socialist Party.

The government and LDP leaders have agreed to promote tax reforms, currently under study by government and party panels, the sources said.

No concrete tax reform plan has so far been proposed, though LDP officers have repeatedly hinted that a new indirect tax will be introduced.

Opposition United in Demand for Tax Cut

OW261405 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Four opposition parties agreed Friday on a budgetary amendment which calls for a 3 trillion yen reduction in income, resident and corporate taxes, opposition sources said.

Japan Socialist, Komeito, Democratic Socialist and Shaminren Parties will jointly submit the plan to Saturday's session of the House of Representatives Steering Committee, the sources said.

The opposition parties will press the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to respond to the joint amendment by Wednesday, they said.

The government's 56.69 trillion yen budget for fiscal 1988 starting April 1 estimates tax revenues at 45.09 trillion yen.

Minister Calls for Revising Airport Plan

OW261459 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Transport Minister Shintaro Ishihara Friday called for revision of plans for a controversial airport in Okinawa that could kill a unique coral reef.

Building an airport near the Shiraho coral reef could "not possibly have a good effect on the coral, and it's not as if there are no alternate sites," Ishihara said at a meeting of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

"There are not many flights (at the existing airport), so there is room to reconsider the project," he said.

The Shiraho coral reef offshore Ishigaki Island, 440 kilometers south of Okinawa Island, has attracted international attention for what scientists say are the oldest documented colonies of blue coral in the world.

Earlier this month the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources passed a resolution calling on the Japanese government to cancel plans for a new offshore airport and protect the reef as a natural treasure.

Ishihara, who as transport minister is responsible for approving the airport project requested by Okinawa Prefecture, said the airport should be reconsidered from "various angles," especially since local people are hoping its construction will boost tourism.

"Coral is an indispensable resource for tourism," he said.

Okinawa Prefecture is currently preparing an environmental impact survey on the planned runway, which was shortened from 2,500 meters to 2,000 meters to remove it further from the Shiraho reef.

Prefectural authorities have said they hope to start construction in fiscal 1988, which starts in April.

North Korea

MAC Official Sends Letter on Remains

SK290553 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0535 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 29 (KCNA)—The senior member of our side to the Military Armistice Commission on February 29 sent a letter to the senior member of the U.S. side in connection with the latter's request made for the transfer of remains of U.S. soldiers on February 16.

The letter says:

We have repeatedly made clear our stand on the problem of remains, but your side sent us a letter provoking us. It is nothing but an illegal act intended to escape the responsibility for the failure to settle the problem of remains and mislead world public opinion.

The problem of unearthing and returning remains is, by nature, not a problem of character to be discussed at the Military Armistice Commission.

The armistice agreement and agreement [as received] say that remains should be returned through the MAC only in case they are discovered. But, the unearthing of remains and the problem of returning the discovered remains do not belong to the authority of the MAC.

Failure to solve the problem of remains till today is because the U.S. Administration has opposed any negotiation with us which should be promoted, making this problem a political one.

As proposed by our competent department in February 1986, if a "committee for unearthing, transferring and receiving remains of U.S. soldiers" were organized and a working consultation held, the problem of the remains would have already been settled.

At the end of last year, even the U.S. Administration did not allow some members of U.S. Congress and veterans' organizations and individuals in the United States to receive remains which were unearthed by our relevant department at their requests.

Taking into consideration the fact that in January last three members of U.S. Congress said they would come to Panmunjom and take part in receiving remains, we had made preparations to transfer the remains, but even this can not be realised because the U.S. Administration faked up the KAL incident in league with the South Korean puppets and took "sanctions", groundlessly carping on us, while staging the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises against us.

The U.S. administration can not escape the legal and humanitarian responsibility for the failure to solve the problem of remains today.

It is outrageous indeed that your side took issue with us, crying about an "unreasonable" and "inhumanitarian move".

The U.S. side, ignoring the armistice agreement and agreement, is continuously relying on the Military Armistice Commission for its solution which has no authority in solving the problem of remains. This speaks for itself that the U.S. side is not practically interested in the settlement of this problem.

The U.S. side should not raise any longer the problem of remains through the MAC, but had better call the U.S. Administration to account for the failure to solve the problem.

South 'Bandits' Fire Machineguns Along DMZ
SK262311 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2226 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets posted 30 armed bandits carrying large-calibre machine-guns and automatic weapons in the Demilitarized Zone southwest of Mt. Sobang in the central sector of the front at around 15:25 Friday and committed a grave military provocation of firing several rounds of automatic rifle shots once again at a post of our side's civil police personnel.

This gravely threatened the safety of our civil police personnel on duty.

Such military provocation, timed to coincide with the aggressive "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, clearly show how frantically they are working to find a pretext for unleashing another war, steadily increasing the tension in the area along the military demarcation line.

The South Korean puppets must ponder over our repeated warnings and stop running riot.

NODONG SINMUN on No Tae-u's Inauguration
SK270327 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0000 GMT 25 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 25 February commentary: "A Drama of Extending Military Rule Under the Signboard of Transferring Power"]

[Text] A farce of transferring power is to be waged in Seoul today according to the scenario mapped out by the U.S. imperialists. In other words, dictator Chon Tu-hwan's so-called Fifth Republic has ended, and, instead, the signboard of military gangster traitor No Tae-u's Sixth Republic is placed at Chongwadae.

Traitor No Tae-u and his DJP rabble are advertising with joy as if the argument on military rule were brought to an end with the farce of transferring power and as if a curtain of democratic development were opened by national harmony. This is nothing but a foolish act, like a wolf trying to disguise itself as a sheep and a black chicken trying to disguise itself as a white one.

Speaking first of the inside story of the farce of transferring power that the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring is perpetrating today, it is a drama designed not only to thoroughly cover up the traitors' act of having illegally usurped power, but also to attach a new signboard to the

military fascist dictatorship that has been maintained for nearly 30 years under the protection of the U.S. imperialists and, thus, to continuously force it upon the people.

Establishing a new democratic regime is possible only through liquidating the existing military dictatorial regime. In order to open a road of democratic development in South Korea, it is imperative that the Chon Tu-hwan dictatorial regime, a barbarous military fascist system, be liquidated and that a genuine democratic regime supported by the people be established on its grave.

However, No Tae-u's regime is to come into being with the present military fascist system in South Korea as its basis and with the extension and continuation of Chon Tu-hwan's dictatorial regime as its foundation. The present system in South Korea, on which No Tae-u's regime is based, is the U.S. colonial system, a military rule system under the foundation of military circles, and a dictatorial system in the interests of the DJP, a political party of military gangsters.

Under such a military fascist system, fair elections reflecting democratic will cannot be expected nor can a democratic regime that the people expect be established. The puppets' presidential election conducted last December was a thoroughly fraudulent and illicit election unprecedented in the history of elections in which all government power and influence of money were mobilized. It was not an election but a political drama designed to fabricate traitor No Tae-u's victory. It was also nothing but a formal function designed to prolong the military dictatorship by replacing the person on duty at Chongwadae and to put the overcoat of legality on him.

Amid the nightmare of such an illegal and fraudulent election, the dawn of democratization that was breaking through the June resistance disappeared and, thus, the South Korean people's desire to end the military rule and to establish a civilian rule has been mercilessly trampled underfoot.

The roots of a poisonous herb are bound to germinate a poisonous herb. It is only a self-evident truth that the No Tae-u regime, which was germinated from the dish of the Chon Tu-hwan dictatorial regime, cannot become anything but a brutal military regime.

Simply with the fabrication of No Tae-u's election through the illicit and fraudulent election, the true colors of the military gangsters cannot be concealed, their regime cannot have legality and legitimacy, and the people's inveterate grudge cannot be eliminated. Despite his mobilization of all sorts of government power, money, fraudulence, jugglery, and trickery, No Tae-u could fabricate only 30 percent of the votes supporting him. The people do not recognize this puppet traitor as president.

It is indeed preposterous for the rascal who is not entitled to become president to noisily wage the farce of an inauguration ceremony. This is also an intolerable derision of and challenge to the South Korean people. Both No Tae-u and Chon Tu-hwan are military gangsters who have grown from the same root of dictatorship. Therefore, they are of the same cast.

No Tae-u was actively involved in the 16 May coup d'etat by Pak Chong-hui. He established the foundation for the military fascist dictatorial regime by triggering the 12 December military coup d'etat together with traitor Chon tu-hwan. He is a vicious and wicked murderer who submerged Kwangju in a sea of blood with the murderous order to exterminate rioters.

That traitor No Tae-u will conduct civilian rule because he has taken off his military uniform is a deceptive trick. A venomous snake is still a venomous snake even though it has shed its skin. While clamoring about civilian rule, once an opportunity has been created he has threatened all forces that seek independence, democracy, and reunification, saying that he will sternly punish them, branding them as left-leaning, procommunist, and impure forces.

No Tae-u is precisely a cunning and brazen-faced swindler and a fascist tyrant who is scheming to prolong the military dictatorship and continue the fascist rule with the double-dealing tactics of suppression and appeasement.

Facts show that even though the baton of power is transferred from traitor Chon Tu-hwan to traitor No Tae-u, nothing will change in South Korea. The No Tae-u puppet regime being established in South Korea is a continuation of the illegal Chon Tu-hwan dictatorial regime that has been established on the sea of the South Korean people's blood and on the dead bodies of fellow countrymen. It is also nothing but a revised version of the Chon Tu-hwan dictatorial regime.

The Chon Tu-hwan military, fascist dictatorial regime has not stepped back, but has come to reign on the head of the people with a more vicious and wicked appearance and with traitor No Tae-u at its head. Under such a group of military gangsters and fascist hangmen, democracy and civil rights cannot be contemplated nor can human dignity and stabilized life be expected.

It is only too clear that this regime, which seeks only division, war, and treachery, will run counter to peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification and will only perpetrate the criminal act of selling out national interests to foreign forces.

The ringleader who has placed traitor No Tae-u—the target of the people's grudge and hatred—on the seat of power is precisely the United States. Attaching importance to South Korea in the implementation of their aggressive global strategy, the U.S. imperialists have

designated traitor No Tae-u as a faithful stooge in defending this fortress and, thus, from the outset have controlled and backed with strength his power-taking schemes.

After arranging traitor No Tae-u's nomination as a candidate for the presidency, the U.S. ruling quarters summoned him to the White House in a bid to raise his popularity by grabbing his bloody hand and, after recognizing his usefulness as a colonial perpetrator, gave him permission to take power.

The prolonging of the military rule through No Tae-u's taking of power is a product of the U.S. imperialists' policy of subjugating South Korea as a colony.

There can be no democratization in South Korea without turning it into a society governed by independence. Experience once again proves that neither the people's call for an end to the military rule and for the establishment of civilian rule, nor their desire for social reforms can be realized as long as the colonial domination of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists continues there.

By drawing a lesson from this, the South Korean people should tenaciously stage the antifascist struggle for democratization and national reunification with an anti-U.S. slogan for independence raised in front of them to pioneer their own fate through their united struggle.

The people have nothing to expect from the game played by the military thugs—the change of government. Nothing of the independence, democracy, and reunification—things the South Korean people have called for, shedding their blood—has been achieved and the advent of the No Tae-u regime now stands in the way of their realization.

The fascist, splittist, and traitorous rule the No Tae-u ring is about to carry out is destined to inevitably encounter enormous popular resistance.

At a time when the struggle is being vigorously staged to frustrate traitor No Tae-u's taking of power and to bring an end to the military dictatorial rule, students at various universities in Seoul, including Yonsei University and Korea University, staged a bold struggle of occupying the U.S. Cultural Center on 24 February. While calling on the United States, which props up the dictatorship, to leave South Korea without delay after discontinuing its interference in South Korea's internal affairs, the students claimed as their goal the frustration of No Tae-u's taking of power without fail, the ending of the military dictatorship before the end of this year, and the creation of a new history of national independence.

The South Korean people and democratic forces that long for democratic politics will burn No Tae-u's fascist military regime and establish a genuinely democratic regime aspiring for independence, democracy, and reunification.

Daily Says People in South Rise Against No
SK270820 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2150 GMT 26 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 27 February commentary: "A Regime That Has Turned Against the People Cannot Be Safe"]

[Text] The struggle of the people from all walks of life against the assumption of the reins of power by traitor No Tae-u, a military gangster, and against the extension of military rule is being vigorously waged in South Korea of late. The struggle has been rapidly intensified throughout South Korea with the commotion of the so-called change in government occurring. On 25 February alone, numerous workers, opposition figures, and citizens, including youths and students, turned out for the struggle in some 30 areas in 8 cities, including Seoul, Kwangju, Masan, Suncheon, and Wonju of Kangwon Province in South Korea.

The struggle is mainly directed toward opposing traitor No Tae-u's assumption of the reins of power. The people of all walks of life, including youths and students, held rallies and demonstrations throughout South Korea against traitor No Tae-u's assumption of the reins of power.

Under the slogans, "Down with No Tae-u," "Overthrow the military dictatorship," "Let us check and frustrate murderer No Tae-u's assumption of the reins of power," and "No Tae-u should step down from power, taking responsibility for the Kwangju incident and the fraudulent election," the people from all walks of life, including youths and students, gallantly fought, confronting the puppet police forces, who frantically tried to suppress the people, and hurling stones at them. They attacked the buildings of local chapters of the DJP and police boxes and burned traitor No Tae-u in effigy and tall street signboards celebrating his presidential inauguration.

The National Coalition for Democracy issued a statement and sternly declared No Tae-u's presidential inauguration to be illegal, null and void. The struggle forces also turned the arrow of attack to the U.S. imperialists, the behind-the-scenes manipulators of the maneuvers for prolonging the military dictatorship.

The anti-U.S. struggle staged under the slogan, "Let us drive out the Yankees who have helped No Tae-u," was further intensified with the occupation of the American Cultural Center in Seoul, one of the U.S. imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration organizations, on 24 February by students from many Seoul universities, including Yonsei and Korea Universities. Condemning traitor No Tae-u as a cat's-paw of the United States, the students strongly denounced the United States, shouting the slogans "United States, stop interfering in our domestic affairs and go home" and "United States, stop the pressure on South Korea to open import markets."

These youths and students in South Korea not only vowed to end the military dictatorship and to create a new history of national independence within this year, but also confirmed their struggle against traitor No Tae-u's inauguration to the end. Thus, they showed the strong indication that their struggle against No Tae-u and against the dictatorship will be further increased in the future.

The anti-U.S. and antigovernment struggle of the people from all walks of life against the military gangster's assumption of the reins of power is being vigorously waged despite the tight closing of all school gates due to the winter school vacation and even under the war-like and dreadful atmosphere of terror and the state of martial law in which, with traitor No Tae-u's inauguration as an occasion, not only such repressive orders as wholesale arrest orders, special emergency security orders, and a Class A emergency duty order have been issued by the puppet procuratorial and police authorities, but also even the puppet army has entered a state of emergency security. This vividly shows how strong the murmur of complaints of the democratic forces against the military dictatorship is and that such a murmur of complaints is irresistible.

The vigorous anti-U.S. and antigovernment struggle of the South Korean people against traitor No Tae-u's assumption of the reins of power is too righteous and is a patriotic act that should not be treated as a criminal one. As unanimously asserted by the South Korean people, traitor No Tae-u is a military gangster and a diabolical homicidal like traitor Chon Tu-hwan. Therefore, he is a target to overthrow in the movement for democratization.

The leading actor of the 12 December coup d'etat that opened the beginning of the fabrication of the Chon Tu-hwan military fascist regime is none other than military gangster No Tae-u. The main culprit of the abominable genocide that submerged Kwangju, the city of resistance for democracy, into a sea of people's blood is also none other than human butcher No Tae-u.

The victory in the presidential election of traitor No Tae-u, a military dictator and a fascist murderer who should have been punished in light of his personal character and past career, is the congealing of illegality and illicitness fabricated on the strength of government power, money, fraud, jugglery, bayonets, and terrorism.

The puppets not only unleashed their armed forces into voting and ballot-counting places, but also mobilized special commandos to block the people from expressing their free will. The puppets went so far as to beat to death those who refused to vote for traitor No Tae-u. Fraudulent voting and ballot-counting by DJP gangsters were perpetrated everywhere, and huge amounts of money

were spent in this. The amount of money that has been reported alone reaches as much as 4.2 trillion won. And yet, traitor No Tae-u obtained support from only 30 percent of the voters.

It is clear to everyone that the assumption of the reins of power by traitor No Tae-u, who was elected on the strength of illegality and illicitness and is, therefore, nothing but a one-quarter president, a half-president, or a small president, and by no means accords with the will of the absolute majority of the people. Furthermore, traitor No Tae-u's assumption of the reins of power is a product fabricated by the U.S. imperialists.

The real ringleader who has blocked the road of democratic development of the South Korean people and who controlled and manipulated behind the scenes traitor No Tae-u's election is precisely the U.S. imperialists. The U.S. imperialists, praising traitor No Tae-u, a military gangster who has been rejected by the people, as the standard bearer of democratization, put a certificate of permission for the assumption of the reins of power in his hands and actively backed the rascal's election through all sorts of political trickery and military aid.

Facing this gloomy situation in which military rule has been extended with traitor No Tae-u's assumption of the reins of power fabricated by the scenario and direction of the U.S. imperialists, how can the South Korean youths, students, and people who have shed much blood in the struggle against military rule and who are still struggling today, adopting the establishment of civilian rule as a task of life or death, idly sit?

The fact that the people from all walks of life throughout South Korea have risen in the struggle against traitor No Tae-u's assumption of the reins of power with the rascal's presidential inauguration as an occasion more clearly shows that public opinion, legitimacy, and the like, what the No Tae-u ring is clamoring about, are out-and-out lies and that the rascals are a group of reactionaries who have failed to receive support from the people and who have been isolated and rejected by them. This proves that the future of the No Tae-u regime is gloomy and dark and will not be safe.

Although the puppets who have been seized with uneasiness and terror are frantically trying to find a way out, wielding the club of military fascism, this is nothing but a poor and pitiful struggle of those who have been rejected by the people.

The South Korean people's will to build a new world of independence and democracy devoid of foreign forces' domination, subjugation to foreign forces, and military rule is firm. This will cannot be blocked by anything. The day when the colonial, military fascist rule by the U.S. imperialists and their stooges will be destroyed by the united struggle of the people will come without fail.

U.S. Praise Seen as 'Nonsensical'

*SK271050 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1025 GMT 27 Feb 88*

["Self-Contradictory Praise of U.S. State Department Spokeswoman"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—A U.S. State Department spokeswoman on February 25 issued a statement to the press hailing the traitor No Tae-u in his "inauguration of the president" in the name of the U.S. Government, according to a foreign press report from Washington.

She, beautifying the stooge with flowery words, said that with "No Tae-u's inauguration" a "democratic era" would be ushered in and "the day when freedoms and human rights could be slighted has ended" in South Korea.

It is, indeed, nonsensical of her to say so.

If something "has ended" and "begins" in South Korea, as the spokeswoman claimed, the traitor Chon Tu-hwan who has converted South Korea into a graveyard of freedom and human rights should be in the dock at least to be punished by the people.

But, there has never been such "miracle" in South Korea. It is because No Tae-u who took his place in "Chongwadae" is a criminal who is in complicity with Chon Tu-hwan in having drenched South Korea in a bloodbath.

It is outrageous, indeed, to assert that a "new era of democracy" has been ushered in the cage where a wolf is replaced by another.

Paper Calls No Cabinet Copy of Chon's

*SK270930 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2144 GMT 20 Feb 88*

[NODONG SINMUN 21 February commentary: "A Fascist Military Cabinet Under the Disguise of Civilian Rule"]

[Text] On 19 February, traitor No Tae-u announced the namelist of a cabinet to sit in the next puppet regime, with the game called change of government approaching. After fabricating his win in the presidential election, traitor No Tae-u has been babbling as if he were going to form a coalition cabinet by offering some cabinet posts to opposition figures in the course of setting up his administration.

However, the composition of the cabinet is a far cry from the puppets' advertisement. The cream of the puppet cabinet, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Justice, have been awarded once again to those who had not only occupied them under the fascist

Chon Tu-hwan regime, but also committed all kinds of crimes, serving the puppet as its limbs. And, in addition to appointing O Cha-pok, who took the lead in fabricating the fascist military regime in the early eighties, to the office of the puppet minister of national defense, traitor No Tae-u has packed other cabinet posts with his trusted followers who have served either in the Agency for National Security Planning or the Ministry of Home Affairs, graduates of the puppet Military Academy, and those from the DJP. Although he has given some cabinet posts to those in civilian clothes in a bid to camouflage the nature of military rule, they are in fact nothing but presidents of government-sponsored organizations or pro-government professors.

Facts indicate that despite traitor No Tae-u's babbling about a coalition cabinet or something else, his fascist group and DJP coterie have dominated every corner of the government. It also means that despite traitor No Tae-u's trick employed to make his new cabinet appear to be somewhat of a civilian government, the No Tae-u regime is a continuation and extension of the fascist Chon Tu-hwan military dictatorial regime.

Commenting on the announcement of traitor No Tae-u's cabinet, even the South Korean opposition parties called it a mere cabinet reshuffle with no particular changes in it, rather than a new cabinet. This is no accident.

Of course, in South Korea where the government is led by the president the cabinet has no clout. Nevertheless, that a military thug, traitor No Tae-u, has come into power and that those who had served as ministers or vice ministers or occupied seats in the National Assembly under the fascist Chon Tu-hwan dictatorship have been rewarded the choice posts of the administration is not a development that can be overlooked.

The puppets are now making a poor excuse that they needed such a game in order to ensure democratic development and national reconciliation and to achieve continued development. How can anything like packing a cabinet with military thugs and their pawns, with no one representing the democratic forces included, be for democratic development and national reconciliation?

The continuity the puppets babble about is nothing but a continuation of the fascist Chon Tu-hwan military dictatorship as well as a continuation of the traitorous and unpatriotic rule they had practiced. All told, traitor No Tae-u is about to intensify the suppression of the people at home through harsh military rule; curry favor with their U.S. and Japanese masters abroad, thereby selling out the country and people; and encouraging confrontation when it comes to North-South relations, while running hard toward division and war.

On various occasions traitor No Tae-u has babbled as if he were going to push ahead with democratization in South Korea, while mentioning a reckless run by Chon Tu-hwan or democratization.

However, traitor No Tae-u has publicly declared that he had no intention to ensure democratic development through his just-announced game of setting up a cabinet. After briefly appearing to be pulling the sleeves of the opposition parties by babbling as if he were about to give some cabinet posts to opposition figures and set up a coalition cabinet, traitor No Tae-u suddenly changed his attitude and then packed his cabinet with his coterie, thereby breaching faith with the opposition parties and laying bare the falseness of his promises as well as his cheating strategy designed to deceive the people.

In essence, traitor No Tae-u, a pro-U.S. military thug, is the person who, together with traitor Chon Tu-hwan, has played a leading role in fabricating a military dictatorial regime in South Korea after going through the 12 December military purification coup d'etat, the 17 May fascist violence, and the great massacre in Kwangju.

Even after changing his military uniform into civilian clothing, traitor No Tae-u, while holding important posts in the puppet administration and the DJP, took the lead in maintaining and prolonging the military dictatorship. Naturally, the South Korean people branded traitor No Tae-u as a military thug who has never thought of democracy. And they have struggled, shedding blood, against his taking power.

By announcing a namelist of his cabinet made up of his trusted pawns after fabricating his win in the presidential election through irregularities and fraud under the fascist military dictatorial system, he has made it clearer that the South Korean people have nothing to expect from him.

If the South Korean people are to achieve their hope for bringing an end to military rule and establishing civilian rule, they should liquidate such a thuggish military group as that of traitor No Tae-u and rouse themselves to action against the U.S. and Japanese imperialists who support and back them.

Proceeding from the lessons they have learned from their struggle in the past, the South Korean people have held aloft the signal fire of a new struggle against the fascist No Tae-u military clique's taking power with a view toward putting an end to the colonial domination by the United States.

The struggle is expected to explode into an even greater one in the wake of the puppets' game called change of government, National Assembly elections, and the Olympics.

Traitor No Tae-u should discontinue his foolish attempt to seize power and he had better retire together with traitor Chon Tu-hwan.

U.S. Said To Deploy 'Armed Forces' to South
SK281034 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are deploying in South Korea huge armed forces which began to move early in February after they announced the decision to stage the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal, a test nuclear war, a preliminary war, according to a report from Seoul.

"Regulus," a 26,000-ton speed freighter loaded with more than 1,000 military vehicles, helicopters and other hardware, which left Washington port on February 18, entered Pusan port on February 27.

The U.S. imperialists are going to carry to Pusan and Pohang lots of hardware for the "Team Spirit 88" by various kinds of warships on 10 occasions till March.

This shows that they are making frenzied preparations to unleash a nuclear war in Korea.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique should be clearly mindful that if they unleash another war in Korea, they would face a thousand-fold retaliation from our people.

Daily on Strengthened Japan-ROK Ties
SK281024 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1010 GMT 28 Feb 88

["Congratulatory" Trip of Dictatorship Protector"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita's trip to South Korea.

Takeshita attended No Tae-u's "inauguration of the president" which resulted from the election abuses through government power, money and fraud, and was closeted with the traitor.

The traitor's "inauguration" was held under strict guard with the mobilization of thousands of police and secret agents. Yet Takeshita described it as one "held in a very bright atmosphere," making quite a noise as if No's seizure of power meant "democratization" of South Korea.

A signed commentary of the daily brands the South Korean trip and remarks of the Japanese prime minister as an insult and challenge to the South Korean people who declared No's "presidential inauguration" "illegal, null and void" and are fighting for democracy.

No's puppet regime is an illegal follow-up of Chon Tu-hwan's fascist "regime," which appeared on the sea of blood shed by the South Korean people, an extension of the military dictatorship, the commentary says, and goes on:

The Japanese reactionaries, together with the U.S. imperialists, rendered unsparing aid to divide the democratic forces of South Korea and rig up No's "victory in the elections."

While the United States is viewed as the mother of No's puppet regime, Japan is playing the role of nurse for it. The Japanese reactionaries intend to give overall aid in all fields of politics, economy and military to consolidate the foothold of the new-born dictatorial "regime" of No Tae-u and reinforce its fascist ruling system:

Takeshita hoped to develop the "new era of Japan-South Korea" which has been provided by his predecessor, Nakasone, and Chon Tu-hwan into a "more matured Japan-South Korea relationship." This means further deepening the master-servant relations between Japan and the South Korean puppets that are linked by a "community of destiny" and widening the road of Japanese militarist reinvasion of South Korea.

The Japanese reactionaries are working hard to take the old position of colonial dominator in South Korea while keeping tight hold on No Tae-u as a guide for reinvasion.

The Japanese reactionary ruling quarters say they would play the role of "bridge" for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the South Korean puppets and other countries. In the final analysis, this means to create "two Koreas" and freeze the division of Korea.

The tieup between the Japanese reactionaries and the South Korean puppets is being further cemented in compliance with the requirement of the U.S. imperialists' Asia strategy to frame up a triangular military alliance.

The strengthened nexus between the South Korean puppets and Japan is laying hurdles in the way of peace and reunification of Korea and poses a factor that heightens the tension in the Far East.

The Japanese ruling quarters should stop disgraceful assistance to the South Korean military fascists and desist from obstructing peace and reunification of Korea.

O Chin-u Meets With Soviet Defense Minister
SK280339 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The DPRK Government military delegation led by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of the People's Armed Forces, is visiting Moscow to

participate in celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet Day. Yesterday the delegation paid a courtesy call on General Dimitriy Yazov, alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and defense minister of the Soviet Union, and participated in a ceremony to confer medals commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces to Soviet soldiers, veterans, and heads of foreign military delegations and their members. The delegation also visited the Central Armed Forces Museum of the Soviet Army.

That day, the delegation was also invited to a meeting of representatives of workers in Moscow and the officers and men of garrison units of the capital city to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet Day held in the Great Kremlin Hall.

No Tae-u's Amnesty Termed 'Clumsy Farce'
SK290744 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 2152 GMT 28 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 29 February commentary: "The Power-Usurping Clique's Trick To Raise Its Popularity"]

[Text] According to a news report, the No Tae-u ring has announced the so-called measure of a grand amnesty for some people who have been imprisoned or who were banned from engaging in political activity on charges of violating fascist evil laws. The amnesty is to exempt or commute their sentences, to have their rights restored, and release them on parole.

The puppets are publicizing that it is a lenient measure of great significance, babbling about their joining in the effort for national reconciliation and democratic development.

This is nothing but a clumsy farce to placate the growing public opinion at home and abroad denouncing the puppets' unlawful game of prolonging their dictatorship. What is more, this game played by traitor No Tae-u, in connection with his swearing in as president, is a strategy designed to win popularity and justify his act of usurping power by raising his own popularity and beautifying his filthy face and is a brazen, deceitful ruse to pacify the fighting spirit of the youths, students, and people of all walks of life who are against his attempt to prolong the dictatorship.

That such a military thug and fascist murderer as traitor No Tae-u should babble about amnesty is preposterous.

As for the prisoners who crowd each of the prisons in South Korea, they are the people who are accused of false charges after being caught in a trap set by fascist evil laws while engaging in righteous activity for their right to exist and for the nation's democracy, national dignity, and national reunification. This being the case, they have no reason to be imprisoned in the first place.

That the fascist military clique imprisons and punishes them is in itself unlawful. The hangmen who have been unreasonably and unlawfully arresting and imprisoning innocent people, while releasing them in dribbles whenever they find it necessary, are now trying to disguise themselves behind the mask of humanitarianism repeatedly playing the old recording called leniency or benevolence. What is this but a hypocritical and deceptive political cartoon?

The people set free this time by the No Tae-u ring are primarily common criminals. Still, a great many political prisoners who have refused to be politically converted or have challenged the fascist military system in South Korea, including those who have been imprisoned on charges of violating the notorious National Security Law, remain behind bars.

Traitor No Tae-u's babbling about a grand amnesty is nothing but a farce, which fails to make people laugh, that is designed to beautify his fascist suppressive maneuvers and to camouflage his monstrous appearance as a fascist tyrant.

If they are genuinely interested in liquidating authoritarianism and achieving democratic development through national reconciliation, they should first do away with the fascist evil laws and the institutions of suppression that cover South Korea like a net; should reform the entire fascist political system into a democratic one; should discontinue the suppression of patriotic, democratic forces; and should unconditionally set free all political prisoners without delay.

Before announcing the amnesty measure, the No Tae-u ring arrested 67 youths, students, and others, just on 24 February alone, on charges of their being involved in rallies and demonstrations against its illegal taking of power. There is no sense at all in babbling about amnesty while suppressing and arresting those who oppose the prolonging of military rule and the trumpeting about national reconciliation and democratic development.

No Tae-u is the incarnation of dictatorship and violence who is unable to stay in power for even a moment without resorting to bayonet-wielding terrorism. Hoping for reconciliation or democratic development under the No Tae-u ring's fascist dictatorial political system is as foolish as hoping for a rose to bloom in a trash can.

Traitor No Tae-u can cheat no one with a worthless deceptive farce—the goal of which is transparent—nor can it hope to placate the resistance of the people who oppose his illegal taking of power and attempt to prolong the military rule.

The No Tae-u ring should liquidate the fascist system of suppression, unconditionally set free without delay all political prisoners who were arrested and imprisoned unlawfully, and step down from power immediately. This is the will and demand of the people.

Paper Comments on 'Amnesty'

SK290611 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0551 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 29 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the so-called "amnesty" by the No Tae-u group.

The traitor No Tae-u staged such a drama in connection with his "presidential inauguration", the signed commentary notes, and says: This is a claptrap tactics to whitewash his dirty face, improve his public image and win the favour of people and thus justify his power robbery and a dastardly placatory trick to lull the mounting spirit of the students and people of all segments in their struggle against the prolonged dictatorship.

The commentary goes on:

Those set free by the No Tae-u group this time are mostly ordinary criminals. A large number of political prisoners who are jailed on charge of the violation of the notorious "national security law," who refuse conversion or negate the military fascist system in South Korea are kept in prison as ever.

If they have a real intention to liquidate "authoritarian practices" and bring about "democratic development" through "national concord," they must, first of all, abolish fascist evil laws and suppressive organs covering South Korea, totally replace the fascist political system by a democratic political system, stop crackdown upon the patriotic democratic forces and unconditionally and immediately release all the political prisoners.

Thinly-veiled third rate drama will fool no one and will not help calm down the resistance of the people against the illegal assumption of office and the extension of the military rule.

Occupation of U.S. Cultural Center Lauded

SK290440 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
1150 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Commentary by station commentator Yi Chu-kyong: "Natural Resistance to Behind-the-Scenes Manipulators"]

[Text] As has been reported, on the afternoon of 24 February, 15 students from 5 universities in Seoul occupied the American Cultural Center in Seoul and waged a sit-in struggle there. While chanting such anti-U.S. slogans as "The United States, which supports the dictatorship and interferes in internal affairs: go home immediately!" and "Stop pressuring to increase imports!", they clearly expressed their firm resolve to fight to block traitor No Tae-u from coming to power and to end the military dictatorship.

At a time when the puppets had issued a Class A emergency alert order and had spread a dragnet for harsh suppression and when the U.S. imperialists' special envoy had snuck into South Korea to beautify the puppets' drama of a transfer of power, they waged a struggle after occupying the U.S. imperialists' organization of ideological and cultural invasion, located in the heart of Seoul. This bold struggle constituted a harsh frontal blow to the U.S. imperialists and their running dogs and demonstrated the South Korean people's firm resolve for national independence.

A struggle exploded because of the anti-U.S. sentiment growing among the South Korean youths, students, and people. This struggle that university students in Seoul waged after occupying the American Cultural Center is a just resistance to the U.S. imperialists who are supervising, behind the scenes, the extension of the military dictatorship in South Korea and who reign as colonial rulers.

Even though the South Korean youths, students, and people have waged a popular resistance struggle to end military rule and to establish civilian rule and shed much blood in this process, the Chon Tu-hwan regime was only replaced by the No Tae-u regime. The military fascist dictatorship has continued, and therefore, they can have no hope or expectations. In this process, they could clearly see who makes a mockery of and rejects their will and desires behind the scenes.

It is the U.S. imperialists who wrote the scenario that contains a promise for false democratization, called No Tae-u's coup d'etat. They did so when the colonial, fascist rule was faced with crisis because of the South Korean people's struggle last year, to oppose the 13 April measure and the June popular struggle. They gave him a permit to take power after calling No Tae-u to the United States to help improve his reputation. It is also the U.S. imperialists who helped, in many aspects, traitor No Tae-u fabricate his election while conducting operations to divide and disintegrate opposition parties. The U.S. imperialists are the very midwives who made the No Tae-u regime appear. Therefore, as soon as traitor No Tae-u's election was fabricated, the U.S. imperialists welcomed it wholeheartedly, expressed their satisfaction over it, and unhesitatingly called on the South Korean people and the opposition parties to accept the election result.

Reagan sent U.S. Treasury Secretary Baker to the spectacle of traitor No Tae-u's inauguration to attend celebrations as the so-called head of the congratulatory delegation and openly beautified the drama of extending the military rule. Moreover, the U.S. imperialists also unhesitatingly, arrogantly, and brigandishly pressured the puppets to open their markets in an effort to quench their voracious appetite by sacrificing the South Korean people. How can the South Korean people, who have a

sense of justice and national dignity, not grind their teeth with denunciation and pent up anger over the U.S. imperialists under these circumstances?

The experience clearly shows that if the military rule is to be ended, if democratization is to be achieved in South Korea, and if the people's right to existence is to be defended, an end must be put to the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule. The struggle that university students in Seoul again waged by occupying the American Cultural Center is a courageous, patriotic struggle designed to respond to this historic lesson and the urgent demand of reality.

The puppets conducted operations to quell the struggle after mobilizing suppressive police forces on a large scale and put the students behind iron bars. However, with this alone, they cannot extinguish the flames of the violent anti-U.S. struggle for independence.

As long as the U.S. imperialists reign as colonial rulers, defend and encourage the military fascists, and challenge the people's aspirations, the anti-U.S. struggle for independence will be further heightened and more violent in South Korea. This is the natural course of history. The puppets must stop fascist suppression and must immediately and unconditionally release the patriotic students. The South Korean people will hasten the new day of independence, democracy, and reunification by more vigorously waging the struggle to end the colonial, fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their running dogs, while chanting anti-U.S. slogans for independence. As with any desperate efforts, the U.S. imperialists and their running dogs will not be able to block the march of history.

Resolution of KAL Incident Labeled 'Faked'
SK290603 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0543 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 29 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today brands the "resolution" faked up by the U.S. House of Representatives charging the DPRK with the KAL incident as a pitiable cry of those driven in corner as the lie they invented was disclosed.

The "resolution" was woven with phrases supporting the "sanctions" taken by the U.S. administration against us and forcing other countries to follow their step, the paper says in a signed commentary, and continues:

The U.S. imperialists are resorting to such disgraceful acts to shift the responsibility for the KAL incident manipulated by them on to us at any cost.

The U.S. smear campaign against the DPRK only offends the ears of the world's people like the sound of a broken drum.

In hanging on to such smear campaign, the commentary notes, the U.S. imperialists seek to justify the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal, arms buildup and other belligerent moves in South Korea, while extending the military dictatorial rule, strengthening their colonial domination and military occupation of South Korea and creating political climate for stepping up the "two Koreas" plot.

Such smear campaign will only reveal the vicious nature of U.S. imperialism as an insolent and truculent interventionist, brigandish aggressor and the ringleader of international terrorism, the commentary stresses.

South Korea

7,234 Receive Amnesty; Civil Rights Restored *SK270052 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English* 27 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] The government yesterday announced an amnesty and restoration of civil rights for 7,234 people, including 1,731 political detainees.

The measure, approved by the cabinet in its first meeting of the Sixth Republic, takes effect today in celebration of the inauguration of No Tae-u, who chaired the session at Chongwadae.

A total of 6,375 people will be pardoned or have their civil rights restored, the Ministry of Justice said. The 859 "model prisoners" convicted of nonpolitical crimes will be paroled.

It said 4,548 will be released from prison with their terms suspended and have their political and civil rights restored.

In addition, 835 people will have their prison terms commuted and 992 already released from prison will have their civil rights restored.

Included in the list of beneficiaries are 1,731 people convicted of antigovernment actions.

Prominent among them are Yi Pu-yong, Kim Min-sok, Ho In-hoe and Ham Un-kyong.

However, two well-known dissidents, Kim Kun-tae and Chang Ki-pyo, were excluded from the amnesty.

Ham Un-kyong, an ex-student leader at Seoul National University [SNU], was found guilty of playing a leading role in a protest at the Seoul USIS building in May 1985. He was sentenced to two years and six months in prison in March 1986.

Kim Min-sok and Ho In-hoe, who headed student councils at SNU and Korea University, were convicted of instigating violent campus protests. Kim was sentenced to three years and six months and Ho to seven years for violating the national Security Law.

Ham, Kim and Ho were leaders of the underground student group, "Sammintu," which once led antigovernment protests.

Chang Ki-pyo drew seven years in prison in November 1986 after being convicted on charges arising from the May 3, 1986, riot in Incheon. Kim Kun-tae of the outlawed "Minchongnyon," was also found guilty of involvement in the riot and was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Kim Hyong-chang and Mun Pu-sik, both guilty of charges stemming from the arson at the Pusan USIS building, will have their prison terms commuted from life to 20 years.

Yi Tae-pok, also a major dissident, will have his sentence reduced to 15 years from 20 years.

The ministry said 992 people who had already been pardoned in a previous amnesty will have their political and civil rights restored.

Included is the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, former chairman of the United Minjung [Masses] Movement for Democracy and Unification. He was sentenced to three years in jail in 1986 for instigating student unrest, but was released in the 1987 amnesty.

Mun backed Kim Tae-chung in the Dec. 16 presidential election, but recently left the dissident group.

Also included are the Rev. In Myong-chin, Kim Sang-hyon, vice president of the opposition Reunification Democratic Party, and Kim Kye-won, a retired four-star general who was involved in the assassination of President Pak Chong-hui.

A host of radical leftist-leaning elements, convicted of violations of the National Security law, were excluded from the amnesty.

They include 31 people jailed in October 1979 for belonging to the pro-north Korean organization "Nam-minjon" and 13 members of the "Chehonuehoe Group" who were convicted of scattering copies of the "revolutionary theory" of Nikolay [as published] Lenin.

A ministry official said about 60 dismissed school teachers will have their civil rights restored so that they can return to teaching.

Kim Pyong-chu, a Korean resident in Japan who was convicted on espionage charges, will have his prison term commuted to life from death. Recruited by North

Korean agents active in Japan, he underwent spy training in the North. Many Korean residents in Japan appealed for clemency for Kim.

The official said 2,134 prisoners, including 150 people convicted of political crimes, will actually be released today.

Kim Tae-chung Wants Broader Amnesty

SK270645 Seoul YONHAP in English
0631 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, president of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), demanded Saturday that all political prisoners and dissidents in jail be released and that their civil rights be restored.

In a reaction to the government's grant of amnesty and other leniency measures Friday affecting 7,234 persons, Kim said that No Tae-u's new government has proved itself to be like the regime of former President Chon Tu-hwan.

Of some 1,300 dissident leaders in prison, only 125, those whose prison terms have drawn to an end, were included among those who are being freed from jail under the name of a "sweeping amnesty," said the PPD president in a news conference at his party headquarters.

The new government of President No Tae-u, in its first cabinet meeting Friday, announced the grant of amnesty and restoration of civil rights for 7,234 people, including 1,731 political detainees. No was inaugurated as Korea's 13th president Thursday, ushering in the sixth republic.

Those who rejected the country's free democratic system or who were involved in radical and heinous acts such as murders and arson, were excluded from the new government's first act of leniency.

The PPD protests the government's undemocratic and irrational handling of the dissident leaders in prison, Kim said. All political prisoners who acknowledge that they are not communists but supporters of democracy should also be set free.

Without a sweeping amnesty, the restoration of civil rights and the release of political detainees, he said, No's government will face a severe challenge from the people and democratic forces.

The PPD decided to send five party members to meet with Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae to demand a true sweeping amnesty.

In addition, Kim Pyong-o, a well-known dissident leader who was not included among those benefiting from the government's leniency measure, shaved his head and began a hunger strike, saying, I cannot hold back my rage and pent-up anger against the government's deceitful leniency measure.

Meanwhile, the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) welcomed the government's act of leniency. DJP spokesman Yu Kyong-hyon said Saturday that his party believes the measure will consolidate the people's trust in the government and provide momentum for national reconciliation and the epochal development of democracy.

Seeks Comprehensive 'Leniency'

SK280155 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
28 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung yesterday called for the release of, and amnesty and restoration of civil rights for more political prisoners.

Expressing deep dissatisfaction with the government's leniency step for 7,234 people, Kim said in a news conference that "some 1,300 democratic figures are still imprisoned while only 125 were released."

"Almost all political prisoners have been convicted through torture and manipulated false evidence," charged Kim, president of the Opposition Party for Peace and Democracy.

If the government refuses to grant overall leniency it will be faced with grave challenges from the people as a whole and the democratic camp, Kim claimed.

As examples of those excluded from Thursday's leniency, Kim cited 42 Korean residents in Japan imprisoned on charges of violating the National Security Law and former lawmaker Kim Pyong-o, whose political rights have been revoked.

"The new government's attitude toward leniency for opposition figures makes it look lacking in will for true democracy and national reconciliation," Kim said.

In this connection, the PPD sent a five-member protest delegation to Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae.

Freed Activists Comment

SK280036 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
28 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] A total of 7,234 people, 125 of them political detainees, were set free from 27 prisons across the nation yesterday under a sweeping amnesty on the occasion of President No Tae-u's inauguration.

They were warmly greeted by family members who were waiting for them at the prison gates from early morning.

Most of the political convicts released with their prison terms suspended under the special pardon were seemingly excited by their hard-won freedom, yet expressed regret that their colleagues were still in jail, left behind.

Many of the released political prisoners paid tribute to the victims of the Kwangju Incident in 1980 in a silent prayer and chanted anti-government slogans in front of the prisons.

Ho In-hoe, former Korea University student who headed "Sammintu," and six others released from the Kongju Prison briefly staged a sit-in protest, pledging that they will continue their struggle for true democracy.

Kim Min-sok, former Seoul National University student council president, said that his release was the outcome of the citizens' struggle for democracy last June, after he was freed from Chongju Prison yesterday morning.

At the gate of the Wonju Prison, Ham Un-kyong, former SNU student who led the seizure protest at the USIS building in Seoul in 1985, knelt down and made a deep bow to his 57-year-old father, saying "I am sorry for causing so much pain to you."

He told reporters, "Life in the prison was miserable. I feel really sorry for those still in prison."

Yi Pu-yong, deputy secretary general of Mintongnyon, was greeted by 20 relatives including his wife at the gate of the Kimchon Prison from which he was released.

He said the fact that a large number of "prisoners of conscience" are still in jail clearly shows the deceptive nature of No Tae-u's June 29 declaration for democracy.

In front of Anyang Prison, Kim Sin, former Korea University student who led the largest seizure protest at Konguk University in 1986, and 14 other released activists adopted a statement calling for the release of all prisoners of conscience.

Meanwhile, family members of the political detainees excluded from the amnesty this time staged a sit-in protest at the Justice Ministry Friday.

Among those released Friday include Ham Un-kyong, a former Seoul National University student who led the seizure at the USIS building in 1985, Kim Min-sok, former SNU student council president, and Ho In-hoe who headed a struggling arm of student activists.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry will help dismissed teachers return to schools. Local boards of education will be instructed to help them resume teaching.

Dailies Urge U.S. To Understand Trade Situation

U.S. Demands Termed 'Unreasonable'
SK290356 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
26 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "To U.S. Treasury Secretary Baker"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of the Treasury James Baker came [to South Korea] from the United States as an emissary for the inauguration ceremony of our new president. From a protocol point of view his visit to Korea is not surprising. The rank of treasury secretary within the U.S. Administration is not at all negligible. In particular, if we take into account Vice President Bush's presidential election campaign and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' visit to the Soviet Union, Secretary Baker's visit to Korea as an emissary appears to be even more natural.

It is no exaggeration to say that when we heard a report that he was coming as an emissary, both ruling and opposition political circles in Korea felt a slight burden. At a time when Korea-U.S. trade is strained and in dispute and U.S. pressure for opening markets and upward revaluation of won is sweeping amid fierce repercussion at home, the visit of the secretary of the treasury, one of the key trade officials of the two countries, can hardly make the people feel at ease.

As expected, talks between financial ministers of Korea and the United States were held the day after the inauguration ceremony. We can easily guess the content of the talks even without asking detailed questions. We would like to take this opportunity to offer bitter remarks about the situation we face.

First, we are paying special attention to the U.S. side's demands. We are rapidly pushing ahead with import liberalization and upward revaluation of the won. The rate of import liberalization in Korea for industrial products has reached the standard of advanced countries, surpassing Japan, by liberalizing 145 items a few days ago.

We are striving to lower customs barriers and encouraging the import of various products, which we have previously imported from Japan, from the United States. We are presently witnessing the effects of such a step. We have also positively pushed ahead with upward revaluation of the won since the latter part of last year and the scale of revaluation this year is greater than that in Japan and Taiwan.

Second, the circumstances of our trade are becoming worse and worse. The abolition of the Generalized System of Preference for Korean products has become a common development and the effect of upward revaluation of the won against currencies other than dollars has begun to appear. Thus, other nation's attention [to Korea] is becoming unfavorable. Furthermore, with factors pressing cost increases, including the practical abolition of financial loans

for export and wage increases, 60 percent of all small and medium-sized export enterprises are known to making below-cost exports. In other words, the foundation for exports is growing weaker and weaker.

However, what is more difficult for us is the fierce resistance of various interested groups at home. To appease such resistance, we have worked out and are going to work out various steps and policies despite our difficult financial situation.

For example, a step is under study to compensate domestic farmers for losses to be incurred as a result of opening the market for beef. We are also striving to work out steps to compensate tobacco growers when imported cigarettes are sold at the cheapest price in the world and appropriations for income from monopolies. There is an indication of even a pan-national antismoking campaign that stresses that cigarettes are a public nuisance.

Clearly, the unreasonable demands to import U.S.-made cigarettes and to allow the sale of U.S. beef are exerting unfavorable influence over the Korean people's sentiment toward the United States. Thus, we are concerned with the voices of some students who call for even the withdrawal of the Americans. Meanwhile, we hope that such resistance would not hinder the expansion of sound imports from the United States.

We are also worried about the possibility of increasing our red figures in trade with Japan by reckless upward revaluation of the won and the expansion of imports. Thus, we hope that such situations are fully understood.

Last, we hope that the new government of Korea is given time to warm up. From a certain point of view, the foundation of the new government is weak, as revealed by the fact that a number of former cabinet members were reappointed. We hope that consideration is given to allow sufficient time to enable the new government to boldly appoint new personnel, so that the sympathy of all the people can be won.

Baker's Visit Assessed

*SK290818 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
27 Feb 88 p 3*

[Article from the "Reporter's Memobook" column by Sin Tsong-sun, deputy chief of the CHUNGANG ILBO Economic Department: "Pressure Emissary Who Has Come to a Banquet"]

[Text] U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker, who came to our country as an emissary to congratulate the president on his inauguration, left an image as a "pressure emissary," not an "emissary for congratulations."

Due to his busy schedule, a meeting between him and Finance Minister Sakong Il was originally scheduled to run 15 minutes; however, it lasted 50 minutes. In the meeting, he cited all the pending Korea-U.S. economic

issues, including the appreciation of the won, the opening of financial and stock markets, and the early agreement on cigarette and insurance negotiations, and called on our side to make sincere efforts on these issues.

It is common for foreign representatives attending occasions for congratulations or condolence to use the opportunity to make diplomatic contacts. Korean-Japanese, U.S.-Japanese, and Korean-U.S. summit talks were held on the occasion of President No Tae-u's inauguration.

Therefore, we can say that it is indisputable that Secretary Baker discussed with his counterpart here the pending problems between the United States and Korea.

Also there was nothing really new in what Secretary Baker said.

The U.S. side only repeated what it had said.

Nevertheless, Secretary Baker left us an unsatisfactory impression because what he did somehow does not agree with the Oriental moral sentiment which emphasizes decorum, law and order, integrity, and a sense of shame.

We have lived in a cultural environment where it is taboo to provoke a quarrel or dispute with the host of a banquet.

Of course we cannot say that Secretary Baker's demand for the appreciation of the won and for market opening is out of place. He came to the felicitous event of the opening of the Sixth Republic as an emissary for congratulations and talked about many unpleasant things and made many requests. This does not leave us with a refreshing aftertaste.

We do not deny the fact that, as Secretary Baker has said, we have achieved enormous economic successes and that it is necessary for us to open our markets.

When we scrutinize this point, the obstacle for opening markets is the people's cognition and sentiment, rather than the government's policy.

We are trying to understand the U.S. situation. However, to be frank, we cannot agree to their method, which is like dunning a person for the payment of a debt.

Therefore, in this sense it is difficult for Secretary Baker to receive a very good assessment of his visit to Korea.

Beef Import Liberalization Effective 1 May

*SK280020 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
28 Feb 88 p 1*

[Text] The government plans to liberalize the import of beef for use at tourist hotels and fancy restaurants effective May 1, it was learned yesterday.

The government step is designed to avoid the invocation of Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act against the export of Korean products to the United States in connection with the import of high quality beef.

The import liberalization of high quality beef is one of the eight economic programs which the government and the ruling Democratic Justice Party have decided to carry out in the days ahead.

The other seven programs include the stabilization of consumer and wholesale prices, control on speculative investment in real estate and tax reform.

Sources at the ruling party disclosed that the United States has pressed the government to allow the import of beef for use at tourist hotels and fancy restaurants 30 days after the general elections.

They said the government recently conveyed its willingness to study the import liberalization of high quality beef after the general elections to the United States even though it had "reservations" on the issue in consideration of the interests of domestic cattle raisers.

In addition, they contended that it is inevitable to liberalize beef imports after the general elections as the United States is expected to invoke Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act against the import of Korean products.

Along with the import liberalization of high quality beef from May 1, the government plans to open other domestic markets wider, ease or scrap trade and non-trade barriers, liberalize imports of more goods and enhance investment in the United States in a bid to head off mounting trade frictions with the U.S. government.

Meanwhile, the government and the Democratic Justice Party decided to expand differential tax on interests with regard to deposits in banking institutions made under incognito. [sentence as published]

They also agreed to enlarge the income tax deduction points for people in low-income brackets and decrease special excise tax on popularized products such as passenger cars and video tape recorders.

The draft bills for the revision of various tax laws are scheduled to be presented during a general session of the National Assembly slated for September with aims of implementing them next year.

Unification Advisory Council Inaugurated
SK270204 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
27 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The Advisory Council on Democratic Peaceful Unification was inaugurated in a ceremony at the office of its secretariat in Changchung-dong yesterday.

President No Tae-u chairs the council which is charged with the mission of achieving the unification of the Korean peninsula.

The supra-partisan, pan-national body will consist of more than 7,000 persons, including members of local councils to be formed later this year.

Details on Plans for RDP, PPD Merger
SK270124 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
27 Feb 88 p 2

[Article by staff reporter Yi Chang-sop: "Two Kims Desperate To Energize Dwindling Political Leadership"]

[Text] A familiar mode of operation will return to the opposition force as Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung will co-lead a new party under an equal power sharing agreement.

Their marriage of convenience, the third time in their 30-year political career, is widely believed to be a desperate attempt to energize their dwindling political leadership and to beat the ruling camp in the forthcoming legislative elections.

The two unsuccessful presidential candidates yesterday let their deputies agree to merge the Reunification Democratic Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] before March 5.

The merger agreement was based on a mutual understanding reached between the two Kims in their get-together last Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two Kims are said to have agreed on a 50-50 sharing of power in the projected opposition party.

They have not decided, however, whether they will remote-control the new party behind the scenes or make one of them the party president and the other a "permanent advisor."

There is also the strong possibility of installing a collective leadership, according to informed sources of both parties.

Under whatever formula, the two Kims will be in charge of the new party. During the Tuesday meeting, the two Kims are said to have called on each other to take the helm of the new unified party.

The merger agreement became possible because neither of the two Kims insisted that they should both resign from active leadership to pave the way for the grand opposition reunion, they added.

In fact, the two Kims have been under mounting pressure from in and outside the party to resign from active opposition leadership since their defeat in the last presidential elections.

By agreeing to merge the two parties, the two Kims expect that they can evade a storm and prolong their political life, the sources said.

It was clear that the two Kims will be kicked out of their leadership positions immediately after the general elections if the RDP and PPD approach the incoming general elections without unity as a divided opposition is assured of defeat in the general elections.

Under the mutual agreement, the two Kims will also retain an authority to hold a 50 percent share in nominating parliamentary candidates for the forthcoming general elections.

Kim Yong-sam will be in charge of nominating candidates in the southeastern region while Kim Tae-chung will nominate his candidates in the southwestern area. They will nominate candidates for such neutral areas as Seoul and central provinces "jointly" through consultations.

As part of steps to inject fresh vigor into the opposition camp, the two Kims also agreed to make an independent recruitment of prominent dissidents into the unified party.

The recruitment is also a step to block the emergence of radical opposition parties, which will certainly weaken the influence of the new party.

In fact, many dissident figures have made separate preparations for establishing half a dozen new opposition parties with radical and progressive ideologies.

Their moves have been accelerated until now as there had been little sign of the RDP-PPD realizing a grand reunion before the general elections.

Many of the dissidents have said they will stop working for the formation of new parties and will join the new integrated party if the RDP and PPD are merged.

Several independent lawmakers, who had remained outside of the RDP and the PPD, will also volunteer to join the new unified party, thus making the new party pose a formidable challenge to the governing camp.

During the past presidential election, 63.4 percent of the electorate voted for the opposition candidates.

While the merger agreement was hailed by many people yesterday, a few lawmakers who had broken away from the PPD to join the RDP last month showed strong opposition to the merger of the RDP and the PPD.

The new integrated opposition party will push for the adoption of the single constituency system in negotiation with the governing party.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party had said that it will accommodate the small constituency system if the divided opposition parties put forward a unified bill calling for the single-lawmaker district system.

However, the opposition insiders do not exclude the possibility of the ruling camp passing the one-to-three lawmakers constituency system in an attempt to thwart the merger of the divided opposition.

They threatened the opposition will boycott the general elections if the governing party does not adopt the small constituency system during the forthcoming special session of the National Assembly due early next month.

To Hold Separate Conventions

SK280121 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
28 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The Reunification Democratic Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy have decided to hold separate special national conventions March 4 to formally finalize their integration plans.

The decision was made in the meetings of decision-making executive councils separately held by the two major opposition parties yesterday.

Representatives of the parties will hold a joint meeting to declare the inauguration of the new integrated party March 5, the two parties announced yesterday.

Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung will meet again next Tuesday or Wednesday to debate such key issues as who will lead the party, what type of leadership the new unified party will adopt and in what way the two factions will allocate the nomination of parliamentary candidates for the general elections.

Kim Tae-chung on Cooperating With No

SK271146 Seoul YONHAP in English
1137 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung demanded on Saturday that President No Tae-u apologize and pay compensation to the victims of the bloody 1980 civilian uprising in Kwangju, capital of Kim's home province of South Cholla.

Shortly before the uprising, Kim had been arrested by the then martial law command on sedition charges. In May 1980, students and citizens in Kwangju staged massive antigovernment street demonstrations demanding Kim's release and lifting of the martial law.

In a speech at a riverside rally here, Kim said he is willing to cooperate with No, if the president meets his demand, in resolving the trauma caused by the uprising.

The rally, the first major political gathering organized by Kim's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) since mid-December, was intended to highlight and protest the ruling camp's alleged fraud in the Dec. 16 presidential election. An estimated 5,000 people were on hand to the disappointment of the organizers who had anticipated much more attendance.

Kim ran for the presidency after breaking away from his rival opposition leader Kim Yong-sam, but both Kims lost the election to No who won 36.6 percent of the votes due to the split in opposition votes.

Earlier this week, a special ad-hoc commission set up by No after his election as president recommended that the government apologize for the Kwangju uprising noting that excessive military action touched off the bloody uprising, in which 191 people were killed.

Also expressing his willingness to cooperate with No, if No faithfully brings about democratic reforms, for the political stabilization, Kim demanded that No's government release all the dissidents in jail and restore their civil rights.

Kim urged that No should also guarantee perfect freedom of the press, stop intervention of intelligence agencies in politics, and assure political neutrality of the police.

Kim 'Ready To Cooperate'

SK280014 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
28 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Kim Tae-chung said yesterday that he is ready to cooperate with President No Tae-u to ensure smooth settlement of the problems with Kwangju.

The president of the Party for Peace and Democracy also said that he can accompany President No to Kwangju, scene of a bloody civil uprising in 1980 if the Chief Executive wants him to.

Kim called on the No government to implement democratic commitments in a sincere manner, to dig up the truth about the "democratic movement" in Kwangju, to compensate, both mentally and materially, the victims and to make an open apology to the citizens of the southwestern city;

Kim made the remarks in a speech in an outdoor rally in Moraenae in Seoul yesterday. It was his first appearance before a political crowd since he was defeated in the last presidential election.

The gathering was occasioned to call for the adoption of the one-lawmaker small constituency system.

He continued that he and the PPD cannot accept the legitimacy of No's election as he won the presidency through fraud and abuses.

But he will cooperate with the new administration to ensure political stability if it is sincere about implementing democratic reforms, Kim said.

To enable the opposition to cooperate with the new administration, Kim said, President No must set free additional political prisoners and see that their political and civil rights are restored.

Kim stressed that the new government must guarantee press freedom, adopt the small constituency system, implement the local autonomy system on a full scale, terminate political involvement of the Agency for the National Security Planning and the Defense Security Command and declare the political neutrality of the police.

He asserted that the opposition must beat the ruling camp in the parliamentary poll to demonstrate that the new government won the last presidential election through fraud and irregularities.

The opposition should also press for the full implementation of the local autonomy system and urge the government to guarantee three basic labor rights, liquidate all existing farm debts, guarantee decent livelihoods to the urban poor and to pursue a price stabilization policy.

Finally, the opposition will seek victory at the time of the confidence vote after the Seoul Olympics No promised to submit to during his presidential campaign.

The first objective in unifying the Party for Peace and Democracy and the Reunification Democratic Party is to ensure opposition victory in the general elections, which should be contested under the small constituency system, Kim said.

Kim said he will crisscross the country along with Kim Yong-sam to campaign for opposition parliamentary candidates during the general elections.

The opposition reunification will provide great momentum to eradicate parochial regionalism and to ensure great victory for the opposition, the PPD president noted.

Paper Notes Changes Accompanying No Tae-u

SK280211 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
28 Feb 88 p 2

["Week in Review" column by staff reporter: Choe Nan-hyon: "Democratic Changes Prevail From Start of New Government"]

[Text] Pedestrians are now allowed to walk along the street in front of Chongwadae, which had been shielded from public view as the center of government power.

Before long, TV viewers may see children drawing pictures on the Chongwadae lawn on special holidays as promised by presidential aides.

Changes are also taking place inside the presidential office.

Presidential appointees are no longer required to bow humbly to the president after receiving a letter of appointment.

President No Tae-u signed a document for a presidential amnesty immediately after it was approved by the cabinet Friday.

Then he went into informal discussions about robbery, mugging and other crimes, and inflation with cabinet members sitting at a round table with him.

No prompted cabinet ministers to express their views on the topics, which were not included in the agenda of the cabinet conference.

His style of presiding over a conference was different from that of his predecessor who used to receive formal reports and issue directives from a seat placed away from cabinet ministers.

The most telling episodes separating the Fifth Republic and the Sixth Republic, at least on the surface, concern security for former and incumbent presidents.

Reporters covering No's inauguration Thursday were permitted greater freedom at the ceremonial site.

Security agents did not bother reporters approaching members of No's family who were seated not among the VIPs but among ordinary guests.

Unlike in the past, security forces did not stop traffic for the passage of the presidential motorcade some hours before President No left the ceremonial site for Chongwadae.

They regulated the flow of traffic, instead of bringing it to a complete stop, for the sake of people's convenience.

However, it was the same old security for former President Chon Tu-hwan leaving Chongwadae for his private Yonhi-dong home.

Reporters assigned to write about his departure did not have the same freedom as those covering No's inauguration.

One of them was roughed up by security agents protecting Chon and his family.

It may be too early, however, to tell if the changes already made in and around the presidential office-cum-residence will help remove the image of Chongwadae as Big Brother watching over every citizen.

No's critics, who claim the changes are only cosmetic, demand progress be made in human rights, freedom of the press, distribution of wealth and other areas.

Although they were only a small minority, thousands of students went to the streets in the nation's major cities to protest No's inauguration.

Many people, however, seem to feel No deserves a chance to prove himself capable of implementing his promise of democracy.

After all, they may believe, a leader less authoritarian and dogmatic in style is more capable of translating words for democracy into action.

No, who refused to be called 'His Excellency,' said in his inaugural speech "The day when freedoms and human rights could be slighted in the name of economic growth and national security has ended.

"The day when repressive force and torture in secret chambers were tolerated is over."

This and other promises are expected to be often quoted as a means of pressuring No to implement democratic reforms in the days ahead.

No Promises Invigoration of Cabinet Functions
SK270054 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
27 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday promised to grant the cabinet maximum leeway in national administration and called for "reinvigoration" of its functions.

"I make it clear that from now on, the cabinet will be granted maximum power and responsibility," No said while presiding over his government's first cabinet meeting at Chongwadae.

"I hope each cabinet minister will carry out business with firm confidence, and take full responsibility for its outcome," he said.

The President urged the cabinet members to work with a "sense of solidarity and teamwork" and reactivate the cabinet session and other relevant meetings.

No then asked the participants to do their best to successfully accomplish the two most important tasks facing the nation this year—the parliamentary elections and the Seoul Olympics.

"The general elections must be held in a fairer and freer manner than any previous ones. The atmosphere should be not of conflict and confrontation, but of good-will competition."

Yi To Promote Human Rights, Reconciliation
SK270056 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
27 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae yesterday said the primary emphasis of the government will be on developing democracy and achieving national reconciliation.

While delivering an address before new cabinet members and other senior government officials shortly after assuming his duties from the outgoing Prime Minister Kim Chong-yol, the former Seoul National University president said his government will endeavor to inspire a feeling of vitality in Korean society by protecting freedom and other basic human rights.

Yi also said his government would manage the upcoming National Assembly elections in a "fair and just manner" and make efforts to implement the local autonomy system efficiently.

Commenting on national reconciliation, the new prime minister said he would make utmost efforts to resolve the problem of provincialism and promote balanced economic development between the provinces and between rural and urban areas.

While stressing that the success of his government's efforts to achieve national reconciliation hinges on whether his government can win public confidence, the prime minister said he would do his best to ensure that his government carries out its responsibilities in a democratic, faithful and moderate way.

Na Stresses Creative, 'Free Economy'
SK270545 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
27 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] New Deputy Premier-Economic Planning Minister Na Ung-pae said yesterday that the government will step up international economic cooperation under the principle of reciprocity.

In an inauguration address as top economic minister, Na said the government will strengthen its role in international society, not as an outsider but sharing responsibility with advanced countries.

As priority affairs to be solved in the sixth republic, Na pinpointed realization of "free economy" respecting creativity and autonomy of private business.

To this effect, the government will activate free market function by easing state control on private economy and reducing intervention, Na emphasized.

Touching on operation of economic policies, the top economic minister said the government will make efforts to regain credibility through restoring "fairness and morality."

All the people will be encouraged to collect their property fairly through equitable tax system, balanced financial favor and blocking unearned income, Na said, adding that the government will establish fair "rule of competition" expelling preferential factors in the permission and authorization system of the government.

In particular, Na called on private enterprises to openly manage their business not to create misunderstandings from laborers but to solve labor-management disputes in advance.

He also emphasized the materialization of "balanced economy" by intensively developing retarded rural community and small- and medium-sized cities.

Na said that the sixth republic will attain "advanced and harmonious economy" by helping all the people participate in the development of economy.

By doing this, all the people will be paid equitably depending upon their respective efforts, Na said, and vitality of growth will refueling the democratization of politics.

To solve economic problems in the sixth republic, the government will collect opinion through dialogs with various walks of life prior to the policy decision, Na emphasized.

He also emphasized "team work" among economic ministries in establishing economic policies, saying that all the economic phenomenon is closely correlated.

DJP To Accept 1-Member Constituency System
SK270100 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
27 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party, in a major turnabout, yesterday expressed its intention to accept the opposition's demand for a single-member constituency system in the next general elections.

A high DJP officials told reporters yesterday morning, "If the opposition parties unite and endorse a single-member format, we are ready to accept it."

In view of current political developments, the official also said that chances are high that a small constituency will be chosen.

The political developments refer to the recent agreement by the two major opposition parties to merge and press for a single-member format before the next elections.

The DJP had favored a format of one to three lawmakers chosen from a district according to its size. That would have meant largely single-member constituencies in rural areas and plural-member ones in other areas.

The ruling party's single-member constituency format calls for dividing the country into 223 electoral districts.h

The districts will be split by administrative units of counties and cities.

A city or a county with more than 330,000 people will be divided into two electoral districts.

A city or a country whose population is less than 80,000 will be merged into an adjacent district, the DJP official said.

But he expected much internal squabbling among the party officials because there were still many members opposing the small constituencies.

Lawmakers from such traditional pro-opposition areas as Seoul, Pusan and Cholla-do have strongly rejected the single-member constituency system.

However, lawmakers from Kangwon-do and Chung-chong-do favored it.

Seoul Police Arrest 6 for Occupying Library
SK280202 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
28 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Seoul police formally arrested for indictment six university students yesterday in connection with the brief occupation Wednesday of the U.S. Information Service Library in Seoul.

The five who stormed the U.S. facility shortly before 5 p.m. Wednesday are charged with breaking into the library, smashing three large glass windows and illegally using explosives.

The sixth person, An Nae-sang of Yonsei University, is charged with conspiring to invade the USIS building, according to police investigators.

An is also suspected of planting a time bomb in the Kwangju USIS building along with other activists. The bomb was removed by police assisted by a U.S. explosives expert Friday afternoon.

The five other students are Han Ki-won, 25, senior of Yonsei University, Kang Chong-chol, 24, senior of Han-yang University, Yi Won-pyo, 25, freshman of Kukmin University, Pak Si-paek, 25, senior of Korea University and Han Ok-pun, 22, sophomore of Ewha Woman's University.

Burma

U Ne Win Calls on Malaysia's Mahathir

BK271409 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] U Ne Win, chairman of the Burma Socialist Program Party of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, visited the Seinlet Kantha State Guest House on University Avenue at 1340 today and called on Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, visiting Malaysian prime minister, and his wife.

Also present on the occasion were U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister; U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs, and his wife; and U Saw Hlaing, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and his wife.

Present on the occasion with the visiting prime minister and his wife were Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, minister of foreign affairs; Datuk Paduka Rafidah Aziz, minister of trade and industry; Datuk Razali Ismail, acting secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mr Mohamed Amir Jaafar, Malaysian ambassador to Burma, and his wife.

Party Chairman U Ne Win left the Seinlet Kantha State Guest House at 1410 after greeting Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir and his wife.

Mahathir Ends Visit

BK271417 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, his wife, and members of his entourage left Rangoon airport by special plane at 1440 today after visiting Burma for 3 days at the invitation of U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma.

The visiting prime minister, his wife, and members of his entourage were seen off at the airport by U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister of Burma; Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and finance, and his wife; Thura U Kyaw Htin, deputy prime minister and minister of defense; U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs, and his wife; U Min Gaung, minister of home and religious affairs, and his wife; U Khin Maung Gyi, minister of trade, and his wife; U Aung Kyaw Myint, minister of culture and information, and his wife; U Thein Toe, Burmese ambassador to Malaysia; officials from the Office of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; ambassadors accredited to Burma and their wives led by Mr Thongchan Chotikasathian, dean of the diplomatic corps in Burma and Thai ambassador to Burma; staff members of the Malaysian Embassy led by Mr Mohamed Amir Jaafar, Malaysian ambassador to Burma, and his wife; and heads of diplomatic missions stationed in Rangoon. [passage omitted]

Thai Crown Prince, Delegation Arrive 29 Feb

BK290704 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
0630 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Thai Crown Prince His Royal Highness Maha Wachiralongkon and his entourage flew in to Rangoon Airport via special plane this morning for a 6-day visit to Burma at the invitation of U Ne Win, chairman of the Burma Socialist Program Party of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma.

The visiting crown prince was welcomed at the airport by U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister; Thura U Tun Tin, deputy prime minister and minister of finance and planning; Thura U Kyaw Htin, deputy prime minister and minister of defense; U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs; U Min Gaung, minister of home and religious affairs; U Nyunt Swe, Burmese ambassador to Thailand; responsible officials from the Office of the Council of Ministers and the Foreign Ministry; ambassadors in Burma headed by Mr Thongchan Chotikasathian, dean of the diplomatic corps in Burma and Thai ambassador to Burma; the wife of the Thai ambassador; officials of the Thai Embassy and their wives; and heads of the diplomatic missions stationed in Rangoon. [passage omitted]

As His Royal Highness and members of the Royal entourage alighted from the special aircraft, a 21-gun salute was accorded in his honor. Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha was on hand to welcome the guests. [passage omitted]

The Thai crown prince was accompanied by a 13-member delegation including Mr Praphat Limpaphan, Thai deputy foreign minister.

Meets U Ne Win

BK290705 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
0630 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] U Ne Win, chairman of the Burma Socialist Program Party of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, visited the Seinlet Kantha State Guest House on University Avenue this morning to greet Thai Crown Prince His Royal Highness Maha Wachiralongkon, who is on a good-will visit to Burma.

Present on the occasion were U Maung Maung Kha, prime minister; U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs; U Saw Hlaing, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and U Nyunt Swe, Burmese ambassador to Thailand.

Also present at the meeting with the Thai crown prince were Mr Praphat Limpaphan, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Mr Thongchan Chotikasathian, Thai ambassador to Burma.

After greeting Thai Crown Prince His Royal Highness Maha Wachiralongkon, the party chairman left the State Guest House at 1110.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

PRC Claim on Spratly Islands Viewed
*BK290954 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0800 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Government of Malaysia has issued an important statement as a reaction to the recent claim by the People's Republic of China concerning the Spratly Islands. The Malaysian Foreign Ministry's statement is clearly worded so that there is no scope for any complaint alleging ambiguity.

As always, Malaysia has taken a posture that is in harmony with public international law and usage. The world is aware that the recent Chinese claim concerns sovereignty over the group of islands called the Spratlys. If one were to refer to a map of the South China Sea region, one will be able to see the Spratly group of islands north of the Malaysian town of Bintulu, in the State of Sarawak. The Foreign Ministry is rather puzzled about the claim laid on the whole of the Spratly Islands. Malaysia does not accept and cannot accept the claim by any country, for that matter, over several islands and atolls south of the Spratlys. Also Malaysia is quite clear about the grounds on which it bases its claim to those islands and atolls south of the Spratlys.

Conflicting claims to territory are nothing new in history, of course. Countries have even gone to war about some valuable bits of land or islands in the middle of the ocean. At the same time, international law is very clear about the test it applies to decide to whom a particular area legally belonged. The classic test was that a state has established that it has been exercising peaceful and continuous sovereignty over the island or land area in dispute. In this connection, Malaysia has in the past, affirmed its jurisdiction and sovereignty over those islands and atolls south of the Spratlys. This had been very categorically sounded out by the Deputy Foreign Minister Toh Muda Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan. The International Law of the Sea has always included the continental shelf. Malaysia notified the world of its sovereignty over the continental shelf officially through a map issued in December 1979. That declaration embodying the legal concept of continental shelf included the islands and atolls south of the Spratlys.

The background to the numerous claims that are being made for the first time by so many nations in different parts of the world is the drive for more resources, particularly petroleum. The Spratly Islands are supposed to have strategic value. In the South China Sea region, four nations are exerting ownership over about 200 tiny islands and reefs not only in the Spratly group, but also further north in the Paracel group. In 1974, China, in fact, seized some islands in the Paracel group which were

also claimed by the former South Vietnam. That was in the crucial month before the defeat of the United States and its South Vietnamese allies.

It is in everybody's interest that any kind of international dispute should be settled through peaceful means and not through warfare. The Malaysian community hope that this recent territorial claim will also be settled in accordance with the established principles of international law.

Mahathir Describes Thailand, Burma Visits
*BK271317 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1
in Malay 1200 GMT 27 Feb 88*

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed has safely returned home. Speaking to newsmen on his arrival, he described his visits to Thailand and Burma as successful. He said that several government policies must be reviewed to improve economic relations with Thailand.

[Begin Mahathir recording] My talks with Thai Prime Minister Prem were successful and I had a chance to listen to Thailand's views on several issues and we must take them into consideration. One thing we have to bear in mind is that Thailand has now become a very developed country. It has made very rapid progress, and we have to review our relations with that country. I plan to discuss this with our cabinet ministers. I think some of our policies benefit neither us nor Thailand. I also held talks with leaders of the two countries on ways to improve communications with Malaysia, especially by opening air routes between Penang and Rangoon. Penang has a special long-standing relationship with Burma. There is a cultural similarity between Penang and Rangoon. Therefore, we must make use of this relationship to further improve the existing relations between Malaysia and Burma. In addition, I believe we can learn a lot in handicrafts manufacturing from both Burma and Thailand. So I believe that the visits to the two countries have been successful despite their brevity. We must utilize the outcome of the visits for our mutual benefit. [end recording]

On his arrival at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base at Sungei Besi, the prime minister was welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba and other cabinet ministers, including Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat.

Discusses Antidrug Programs
*BK271440 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1348 GMT 27 Feb 88*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 27 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed Saturday expressed his satisfaction with the Thai Government efforts to combat narcotics activities particularly in the "Golden Triangle".

He said the picture given to Malaysia all this while was not accurate, as it created the impression the Thai Government was not doing anything about the problem.

Speaking to newsmen on his return here from a five-day visit to Thailand and Burma, the prime minister said he was taken to a hilly area where 4,000 hectares of poppy were formerly grown.

"The area is now cultivated with substitute crops which are giving residents there better returns. Poppy cultivation has dwindled to only about 400 hectares," he added.

He said the Thai initiative had succeeded because the residents had accepted that an alternative crop would give them a better income than the sale of opium (derived from juice of the poppy flower).

Dr Mahathir said in the Thai Government view, the name "Golden Triangle" was now suitable for the changed situation in that area where poppy had been replaced by other crops. Malaysia has at one time proposed the region be re-named "Death Triangle."

The Burmese Government's efforts in checking the problem meanwhile were different as the government was still opposed by groups depending on the sale of opium for funds, he said.

He said the Burmese police chief had briefed him on the equipment used for processing heroin and other types of narcotics.

A lot of cheap equipment was being used to process heroin in that country, according to him.

The prime minister drew attention to the problems Burma faced in fighting the narcotics menace. Compared with Malaysia for instance, Burma has a much longer coastline to patrol.

Dr Mahathir is satisfied with the dedicated efforts carried out by the Burmese authorities despite the harassment by certain groups, as could be seen from the loss of about 100 policemen annually and the shooting down of army planes in the war against the narcotics menace.

He said Burma had a philosophy different from Malaysia's in the treatment of *dadah* [drug] addicts.

"Burma considers the addicts arrested as criminals who should be imprisoned and forced to undergo treatment. The rehabilitative methods also differ somewhat," he added.

He declared himself generally pleased with his tour of Thailand and Burma.

He also said Malaysia should re-assess its relations with Thailand especially from the economic aspect, in view of Thailand's growing economic strength.

The matter would be discussed by the Malaysian cabinet soon.

Commentary on Thai Visit

BK261209 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0800 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Malaysian prime minister's 3-day visit to Thailand can be described as a [word indistinct] subject. The theme from neighborly relations to brotherly relations sums up the program of closer cooperation that the two countries have decided to initiate. There are numerous areas in which Malaysia and Thailand have either common or almost identical viewpoints. Dr Mahathir's visit will be the forerunner of a new era in bilateral and regional cooperation.

The two countries have reiterated their commitment to take joint action to curb drug smuggling at their common border. This is a very serious problem that directly affects the two countries and their young people. It is well known that drugs originating in the notorious Golden Triangle region to the north of Thailand find their ways to both Thailand and Malaysia. All types of ingenious devices are employed in the conveyance of the deadly substances not only to this region but to the affluent Western cities as well. The Malaysian prime minister's personal commitment to the war on drugs and drug trafficking is well known. His good work at the Vienna conference on drugs last year won the praise of all countries. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Malaysian prime minister's busy schedule in Thailand included the briefing on recent developments in the Thai antinarcotics campaign.

An important outcome of Dr Mahathir's visit is the decision regarding the exploitation of oil and gas resources in the South China Sea region. This is a very well-endowed area as far as petroleum is concerned. From the perspective of international law, both countries have sovereign rights to the resources of the sea floor and ocean bed. Some years ago, the two neighbors agreed to work out the modalities of exploration and exploitation. Now, a step further has been taken. There will be joint projects to tap the oil wealth in the area where their sovereignty overlaps. This kind of amicable and rational settlement of interests is a marked feature of relations between Malaysia and Thailand. In fact, the high level of cooperation was already established long before the formal launching of ASEAN—the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. With the steady growth of ASEAN, naturally, Malaysian-Thai relations now cover a very wide spectrum ranging from anticommunist activities to tourism and cultural exchanges. In this connection, the reduction in travel time between Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok must be mentioned. More Malaysians are visiting Thailand as tourists. Similarly, busloads of Thai citizens drive down to Malaysia, and this is a familiar phenomenon all days around.

The war on communist subversion has brought Malaysia and Thailand closer together. A very high degree of professional cooperation exists between the Armed Forces, the police, and other paramilitary bodies of the two countries.

In recent years, educational cooperation has also become important. Apart from student and staff exchanges and joint research projects, there is increased interest in each country to become acquainted with the country's national language, music, dance, tradition, and so on.

In short, Malaysia and Thailand can be held up as a splendid example of not merely good-neighborly relations but brotherly relations.

Singapore

Australia's Hayden Talks With Counterpart
BK261219 Singapore Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The Australian minister for foreign affairs and trade, Mr Bill Hayden, this afternoon called on the acting minister for foreign affairs, Mr Wong Kan Seng. Mr Hayden said their talks covered broad regional issues, the situation in the Philippines and the Cambodian problem.

Earlier, the Australian minister spoke to members of the Singapore-Australian Business Council and journalists at a breakfast talk. Mr Hayden said the major reason for his visit to Singapore is to explore the ways of boosting trade and economic relations. He said Australian businessmen must become more attuned to the needs of Singapore and the region and they should take part more effectively in major development programs in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr Hayden also said that both Singapore and Australia should continue to look at prospects for joint ventures, including services [words indistinct] export to third countries.

Mr Hayden has left for Indonesia.

Cambodia

PRACHEACHON Favors Solution in Afghanistan
BK271325 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1120 GMT 27 Feb 88

["Kampuchean Paper Supports Political Solution to Afghan Issue"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 27—The recent statement made by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan have once again testified to the two countries' good-will attitude toward a political solution to the Afghan conflict, said the Kampuchean party paper PRACHEACHON (PEOPLE) in a recent issue. Commenting

on these events, the paper highlighted the great efforts of the Soviet and Afghan Governments to accelerate the Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva aimed at seeking an equitable solution to the problem around Afghanistan in the interests of the Afghan people and of peace and stability in the region and the world as a whole.

PRACHEACHON said: "The most worthy of note is that, while striving for a political solution to the Afghan conflict, the Soviet Union has pulled out six regiments from Afghanistan and declared its readiness to effect an early complete withdrawal of its troops from the country if an agreement is reached at the Geneva negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan to ensure noninterference from outside in the Afghan internal affairs and the repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan. The good-will and constructive moves of the Soviet and Afghan Governments have won ever stronger approval and support from the world public".

"Over the past years," the paper noted, "by implementing the policy of national reconciliation, the Afghan Government has constantly heightened its prestige at home and abroad. The Afghan people have overcome numerous difficulties to build a new society and improve their living conditions. More and more Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland in spite of the counter-revolutionary propaganda and the threats by the hostile forces. Many misled peoples have broken with the enemy's rank and rallied to the revolution. The Afghan people are trying to rehabilitate their country seriously devastated by the war staged by imperialism and its flunkies. New positive changes have emerged in Afghanistan, thus creating favourable conditions for the negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan."

PRACHEACHON said that many difficulties and obstacles still lie ahead in the Afghan people's revolutionary cause. "Imperialism and other hostile forces are seeking to hinder the advance of the Afghan revolution," the paper said. It pointed out that the domestic and international reactions have unleashed an undeclared war, militarily, psychologically and diplomatically, against the Republic of Afghanistan and that they are now slinging mud at the policy of national reconciliation and at the Soviet Union's peace initiatives and efforts. Obviously, the paper noted, they have not yet renounced their acts of intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

"The Kampuchean people, together with their progressive and peace-cherishing people across the world, fully support the recent statements of the Soviet and Afghan leaders on the peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue. Once again, they express full support for the Afghan people's just struggle for national independence and sovereignty in the interests of peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world as a whole," the paper said in conclusion.

Sihanouk Affirms Revocation of Resignation

Aides Confirm Resignation

*HK270900 Hong Kong AFP in English
0839 GMT 27 Feb 88*

[Text] Beijing, Feb 27 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk is still on "leave from the presidency" of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), at least until May, his aides said here Saturday.

The prince has not formally gone back on his January 30 resignation as head of the Cambodian resistance, his aides said, adding that his year-long leave as CGDK president announced in May was still valid.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said Friday in Jakarta that the prince had agreed to resume the leadership of the CGDK while remaining on a one-year leave of absence.

Despite Prince Sihanouk's resignation and affirmations by his aides, the former Cambodian monarch has remained the de-facto chief of the resistance, Western diplomats say.

Diplomats say Prince Sihanouk has gone back, partially at least, on his resignation following Vietnam's refusal to have direct talks with him.

They say he recently announced a series of visits this year to Asia, the United States and Europe, in the capacity of leader of the anti-Vietnamese resistance coalition.

The CGDK is made up of the followers of Prince Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and a Nationalist faction led by Son Sann.

Visit to Japan Planned

*BK271246 Hong Kong AFP in English
1230 GMT 27 Feb 88*

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 27 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk will visit Japan in August, his office here said in a press release received Saturday by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The former Cambodian monarch also plans to go to North Korea in April and May and tour member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in June and July, the press release said.

He is currently staying in China until the end of March.

China and ASEAN, grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, are the Cambodian resistance's main sponsors.

The press release said Prince Sihanouk would also visit resistance-controlled areas in Cambodia, go to Japan, then return to China in August before flying to London and New York in September.

He is to stay in France from September through January 1989 when he will return to Beijing.

The press release did not say whether Prince Sihanouk's planned trip to New York was meant to coincide with the U.N. General Assembly, which he had attended before he quit last month as president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

The CGDK holds Cambodia's seat in the United Nations, which does not recognize the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh.

The prince announced in Beijing January 30 that he was stepping down permanently as head of the CGDK, due to differences with his coalition partners—the Khmer Rouge and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

One of his main differences with the Khmer Rouge was its lack of support for his proposal to have an international peacekeeping force (IPKF) move into Cambodia when occupying Vietnamese troops withdraw from the country.

Prince Sihanouk was quoted by his office as saying Friday that "without the presence of a powerful IPKF in our homeland" a "liberated Cambodia" would "quickly fall again" under the Khmer Rouge.

Harsh rule by the Khmer Rouge from April 1975 to January 1979 witnessed the death of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians, including 14 of Sihanouk's children and grandchildren.

"If the Khmer Rouge refuses to have an IPKF installed in the liberated Cambodia, I will not return (there)," the prince said.

Talks With Hun Sen Hinted

*HK290450 Hong Kong AFP in English
0438 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Text] Beijing, Feb 29 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced here Monday that he was reversing his decision to resign from the presidency of the Cambodian resistance coalition and hinted at possible new talks with Phnom Penh.

In written replies Monday to questions from AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, the prince said: "I accept, owing to insistent demands (from the resistance coalition), to temporarily remain president of Democratic Kampuchea."

He said he still wanted to leave the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), but that Vietnam's refusal to enter into direct talks with him had led him to go back on his decision last month to quit as president.

"The intolerable attitude of Vietnam towards me after the announcement of my resignation as president of Democratic Kampuchea forces me to go back on a decision that I had considered irrevocable and irreversible," he said.

The prince, 65, announced on January 30 that he was quitting the presidency, describing as an "abominable monster" the U.N.-recognized resistance that groups Sihanouk loyalists, the nationalists of Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge.

He also said at the time that he was ending peace talks with Phnom Penh's Prime Minister Hun Sen, whom he met twice in France in December and January, he offered instead direct talks with Vietnam.

But Hanoi, which has an estimated 140,000 troops in Cambodia to help prop up the Phnom Penh regime it installed in early 1979, quickly refused the overture.

The prince said Monday he could meet Hun Sen later this year if the premier first presented satisfactory proposals for an equitable solution to the Cambodian problem.

"It is possible... that I will receive Hun Sen at Fere-en-Tardenois for a third round of talks" during a stay in France set for November and December, he said. Fere-en-Tardenois, a village north of Paris, was the site for the first talks between the two men in early December.

The prince, who conducted the talks after announcing a 12-month "leave of absence" as CGDK president in May, said Monday he would remain on leave of absence until the resistance and Phnom Penh agree on a new flag and national anthem for a non-communist Cambodia.

"Except for a surprise breakthrough," he said, "I do not see any possibility for a political solution in Cambodia."

"Every day that passes convinces me more and more that the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the People's Republic of Kampuchea (the Phnom Penh regime) are...trying to maintain at all costs, even in the long term, a Communist regime and a satellite of Hanoi and Moscow in Cambodia."

Non-communist Southeast Asia and the West, which back the resistance, had reacted favourably to the peace talks in France, the first between warring Cambodian factions since the Vietnamese invasion in late 1978.

But China, the main backers of the Khmer Rouge which forms the military muscle of the 50,000-strong resistance, had expressed strong reservations over the negotiations, Western diplomats said.

Nationalist leader Mr. Son Sann had accused the prince of "playing Vietnam's game" by meeting Mr. Hun Sen.

Indonesia

Sutrisno Sworn In as Armed Forces Chief

BK270518 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0500 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] At the State Palace in Jakarta this morning, President Suharto installed and swore in General Tri Sutrisno as commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia to replace Gen L.B. Murdani. The ceremony was attended by the chiefs of staff of the three armed services and chief of the Republic of Indonesia Police, ministers of the Fourth Development cabinet, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Murdani Hands Over Post

BK290700 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0600 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] General L.B. Murdani turned over the post of the Indonesian Armed Forces [ABRI] commander to General Tri Sutrisno at the ABRI headquarters at Cilangkap in Jakarta this morning. The ceremony, which saw the former ABRI commander hand over the ABRI banner to the new commander, proceeded smoothly. Present at the ceremony were ministers of the Fourth Development cabinet, former and current ABRI officials, as well as the national police chief.

In his speech, Gen Murdani said the event was an important one for the ABRI because it marked the end of the regeneration process within the ABRI which had gradually carried out the process for many years. During its nearly 43 years of existence, the ABRI has not only played its defense and security role for the country, but has also worked for the country's prosperity. Putting this role into practice has always made the ABRI successful in becoming the vanguard in practicing Pancasila state ideology.

On the occasion, new ABRI Commander Gen Tri Sutrisno said that the change of ABRI leadership will not change the identity of the ABRI as a people's army, a fighting army, and a national army, which is the backbone of the country's force in safeguarding the country's unity, Pancasila state ideology, and the 1945 Constitution.

Murdani Remains Security Chief

*BK270725 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0700 GMT 27 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] At the State Palace this morning, President Suharto installed General Tri Sutrisno as Armed Forces commander to replace Gen L.B. Murdani. [passage omitted]

For the time being, the post of the commander of the Security and Order Restoration Operational Command continues to be held by Gen L.B. Murdani.

Mokhtar Says Sihanouk To Resume CGDK Post

*BK261104 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT
26 Feb 88*

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 26 (AFP)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja confirmed reports Friday that Prince Norodom Sihanouk has agreed to resume the post of president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

Mr Mokhtar told a press conference here that Prince Sihanouk had agreed to again head the Cambodian resistance coalition after taking a one-year leave of absence.

The Indonesian foreign minister's statements were the first confirmation of newspaper reports that Prince Sihanouk would resume the presidency of the CGDK, which he resigned in January, observers said.

Mr Mokhtar hailed the latest political manoeuvres by Prince Sihanouk, calling them "quite significant" and saying they have raised new prospects for a peaceful settlement to the Cambodian problem.

The BANGKOK POST reported last week from Beijing, where Prince Sihanouk resides, that the former Cambodian monarch had agreed to assume a kind of honorary CGDK presidency but would remain on leave because of human rights violations by other forces in the tripartite coalition.

The CGDK is made up of followers of Prince Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and a nationalist faction led by Son Sann.

Mr Mokhtar said that Prince Sihanouk has emerged "in a stronger position as the undisputed leader of the resistance force." He said the prince now also commands the support of Moscow in addition to that of China.

By taking a leave of absence, Prince Sihanouk left open the possibility of talking with Vietnam, which does not recognise the CGDK and would only talk to him in a private capacity, the Indonesian foreign minister said.

Indonesia has been a staunch supporter of the CGDK and leads the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in trying to negotiate a settlement in Cambodia, where Vietnam has an estimated 140,000 troops.

Mr Mokhtar said Prince Sihanouk's moves had improved the prospects for hosting an informal meeting of the warring Cambodian factions and Vietnam, an idea mooted by Indonesia.

He said however that a reconciliation within the CGDK would take awhile and that it was up to the coalition and the other parties in the conflict to find an appropriate time to hold the meeting in Jakarta.

Mokhtar on Ties With Australia, PKI Cadres

*BK270603 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0420 GMT
27 Feb 88*

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 26 (ANTARA/OANA)—Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja dismissed allegations here Friday that the relations between Australia and Indonesia were bad.

The relations were good, especially at governmental level, he stressed.

He told his weekly meeting with the press that the relations in the area of business and tourism were also fine, he added. The question on the bilateral relations between the two countries had been under the spotlight particularly in view of the 3-day visit to Jakarta by Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden who is scheduled to arrive here Friday.

Mokhtar refused to mention the subjects he would discuss with his Australian counterpart on Saturday. However, some political observers said the topics would include the Timor gap, the deportation of fishermen, and investments.

Referring to the international communist meeting in Budapest, capital of Hungary, which was reportedly to be attended by about 35 young activists of the now banned Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), Mokhtar said he had received a great deal of information, including their names.

But he said as far as he knew, none came from Indonesia. The young communists, he added, were students living abroad, such as in West and East Europe.

Mokhtar expressed the view that their activities were out of thought because the communist doctrine itself has developed so rapidly. He mentioned the words *glasnost* and *perestroika*, which essentially represent political and economic reform.

We do not have to sorry about their activities, because we have the *pancasila*, he stressed.

Visiting Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr Peter Varkonyi has said that his government has no relations whatsoever with their activities.

When asked on matters with regard to the Kampuchean conflict, particularly on reciprocity expected from the United States for Indonesia's enthusiastic efforts at helping solve the dispute, he said he knew Washington tried hard, but a great deal of the American people did not agree to an accelerated solution.

He said such a situation might be the result of the priorities in the U.S. views vis-a-vis various international problems, such as the Afghanistan and strategic arms issues.

In other words, public support to the settlement of the Kampuchean issue and the normalisation of ties with Vietnam has no serious effect.

Australian Foreign Minister Pays 3-Day Visit
BK270609 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0440 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Jakarta, February 27 (ANTARA/OANA)—Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Bill Hayden arrived here on Friday for a 3-day unofficial visit aimed at increasing trade and economic relations.

He will have talks with his Indonesian counterpart, Foreign Affairs Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja and ad interim Trade Minister Bustanil Arifin.

This is the first time I will be discussing trade relations between the two countries, he told reporters upon arrival at Halim Perdanakusuma Airport.

Bill Hayden came aboard an Australian Air Force special aircraft accompanied by his wife.

Asked for his comments on the change in leadership in the Indonesian Armed Forces, he said that it would not affect the relations between the two countries, which had run very well so far.

He admitted Australia had recently deported some Indonesian fishermen for illegal entry. He said he would also take up the matter at his discussion with Minister Mokhtar in a bid to find an effective way for preventing any recurrences in the future.

The Kampuchean problem and the Timor gap will also be the topics of discussion with Minister Mokhtar, he said.

I will really meet a world figure when discussion comes to the Timor gap, he said, praising Minister Mokhtar's capacity in matters relating to the law of the sea.

Bill Hayden reiterated that Australia had not as yet recognized any government in Kampuchea, be it the one led by Sihanouk, which has received a recognition from the United Nations, or the one led by Heng Samrin which is supported by Hanoi.

Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Bill Morrison welcomed his arrival at the airport. Bill Hayden and wife will visit the Special Region of Yogyakarta before leaving for home on Monday.

Addresses Business Group

BK270635 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0540 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Jakarta, February 27 (ANTARA/OANA)—Foreign Affairs and Trade Bill Hayden has stated that bilateral trade between Australia and Indonesia fluctuated enormously in recent years. [sentence as received]

Minister Hayden made the remark at a dinner hosted by Austcham, the Australian businessmen's group in Indonesia, here Friday night.

Hayden pointed out that the fluctuation reflected the predominance in the bilateral trade of a narrow range of commodities subject to the pulls and pushes of the international market, as shown in Indonesian oil exports to Australia and a range of Australian commodity exports to Indonesia.

He disclosed that bilateral trade between the two countries had increased by an average of 5.5 percent in the past five years.

Indonesia, according to Hayden, is Australia's 18th largest export market that absorbed U.S. \$511 million of Australia's exports in 1986/87.

This country is also the 19th biggest supplier of commodities for Australia in the same year, by supplying goods worth U.S. \$310 million, he pointed out.

The situation underscores the need of the two countries to look for opportunities to broaden bilateral trade, he said, adding that the development of closer contact and understanding between commercial communities in both countries is basic to the achievement of the goal.

Referring to the investment sector, Hayden said there were some 120 Australian companies affiliated to or with interests in Indonesia, making Australia the 8th largest foreign investor in this country with total approved investments of over U.S. \$316 million. The total amount of Australia's investments in Indonesia is expected to continue to increase significantly over the next several years, as coal and gold mining ventures with Australian involvement come on stream, according to the minister.

Hayden is making a 3-day visit to Indonesia. He will meet with Acting Minister of Trade Bustanil Arifin and Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja today.

The Australian minister and entourage will leave here for Yogyakarta this afternoon. And after spending one night in Yogyakarta, they will leave for home.

Concludes Visit 28 Feb

*BK280920 Jakarta International Service in English
0800 GMT 28 Feb 88*

[Text] Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden ended his 3-day unofficial visit to Indonesia today after talks with his counterpart Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja and ad interim Trade Minister Bustanil Arifin yesterday.

During his talks with Minister Mokhtar, Mr Hayden said that the repatriation of Indonesian fishermen illegally entering the Australian territory will not affect the friendly relations between Indonesia and Australia. According to Mr Hayden, officials of the two countries had agreed to take coordination steps to settle the problem. According to reports, some Indonesian fishermen entered Australian territorial waters accidentally. Several of them were stranded on small islands in the northern coast of Australia because they were unable to control their fishing boats when big waves hit them.

Other topics discussed by the two foreign ministers were the off-shore border line between East Timor and Northern Australia and the Kampuchean issue.

Australian minister of trade and foreign affairs, in his talks with Indonesian ad interim Minister of Trade Bustanil Arifin in Jakarta yesterday, expressed his country's interest in developing Indonesia's Bukit Asam coal mining project. Mr Hayden said Australia could offer a consultant service and promised to help Indonesia promote its export of nonoil commodities through the Australian Expo in Brisbane next April.

Minister Bustanil Arifin meanwhile, said that Australian participation in the Indonesian project will be admitted to international standard. [sentence as heard]

Hungarian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

*BK271231 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
1200 GMT 27 Feb 88*

[Text] Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi says that his visit to Indonesia has opened a new era in the promotion of relations and cooperation between the two countries. Speaking at a news conference in Jakarta this afternoon, Minister Varkonyi said that the two countries should promote economic and trade relations; there is room for cooperation in the fields of energy conservation, pharmaceutical technology, and tourism. The minister said there is an trade imbalance between the two countries in Indonesia's favor.

While in Indonesia, the Hungarian foreign minister held talks with Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja and a number of other officials. The Hungarian guest concluded his visit to Indonesia today.

Laos

Kaysone Phomvihane Replies to Thai Premier

*BK290606 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0500 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Text] At 0830 today, Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the LPDR, summoned Mrs Prathuang Rotphrom, Thai charge d'affaires to Laos, to ask the Thai Embassy to convey a message dated 26 February 1988 from Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR, to His Excellency Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. The message reads in full as follows:

I have the honor of informing your excellency that I have received your letter of 24 February 1988. The LPDR Government, as well as the entire Lao people, is pleased with and has highly appraised the outcome of the talks between our two countries' military delegations in Bangkok on 16-17 February 1988 and in Vientiane on 23-24 February 1988. We are elated at the orderly implementation of the cease-fire agreement and the measures to have the cease-fire remain in effect until the government delegations of the two countries can peacefully settle, through talks, the borderline problem in the disputed area in Laos' Sayaboury Province and Thailand's Phitsanulok Province.

I am honored to inform your excellency that the LPDR Government has acknowledged the said decisions reached by the Lao and Thai military delegations and agreed to the delegations' proposal for political talks to settle the present disputes on the basis of law and ethics, based on the 1907 French-Siamese Treaty and related maps.

With regard to your excellency's invitation asking Laos to send a delegation to hold talks with a Thai delegation in Bangkok at an early date, I am pleased to inform your excellency that the LPDR Government will send a government delegation headed by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit to come to Bangkok at 0930 on 3 March 1988 to hold talks with a Thai Government delegation with the goal of settling the problem of border disputes in the said area in order to contribute to restoring the normal relations and friendship between both countries in accordance with the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries and in the interest of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in this region, as well as in the interest of world peace.

On the same occasion, Souban Salitthilat also informed the Thai charge d'affaires of the namelist of the Lao delegation which is to consist of Brig Gen Thonglai

Kommasit, first deputy chief of the LPA General Political Department; Thongloun, deputy minister attached to the Council of Ministers; Thongsai Inthaphon, chief of the Administrative Committee of the Council of Ministers; (Sonchan Thavikham), chief of the Overview Department [kom sangloun] attached to the Council of Ministers; (Bounkeut Sangkomsat), deputy chief of the International Organizing Department under the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Thai charge d'affaires expressed satisfaction over this information and said she will promptly convey this letter to his excellency the prime minister of Thailand.

Joint Military Commission Continues Work

*BK290258 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Text] Over the past 3 days—from 26 to 28 February—the joint Lao-Thai military commission jointly carried out the actual tasks of removing landmines and retrieving the bodies of dead soldiers from various points where the fighting took place along the Lao-Thai border in Laos' Boten District, Sayaboury Province, and in Thailand's Chat Trakan District, Phitsanulok Province. Despite difficulties due to the geographically dense forests and steep and high mountains in the area, the teams from both sides to the joint commission persistently made efforts to fulfill the tasks in a spirit of sincerity, equality, and mutually understanding fraternity. This was seen through their actual activities each day as the technicians of both sides informed each other of the number and names of dead soldiers. The exchanges of dead bodies were made in ceremonies alternately held at Meuang Phe village in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, Laos, and at Muang Phae village in Na Hao District, Loei Province, Thailand, where the joint Lao-Thai military commission is stationed.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Khamman Kommameuang, deputy chief of the Lao team in the joint military commission, in his interview given to reporters at Meuang Phe village on 28 February, the joint military commission of the two sides will continue to work together to remove the landmines and retrieve the bodies of dead soldiers until completion, which is expected to be in the next few days, after which the commission will jointly review and assess the initial achievements accomplished in the joint effort.

Saman Vi-ngaket Meets Visiting Soviets

*BK291024 Vientiane KPL in English
0900 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Text] Vientiane, February 29 (KPL)—Saman Vi-ngaket, Politburo member, secretary of the LPRP CC and head of its Organisational Board, on February 26 received a delegation of the Socio-Scientific Academy of the CPSU led by Soudbin Billen Evgeiniavich.

During the cordial and friendly talk, Soudbin Billen Evgeiniavich, who is also deputy-head of the Institute for the Exchange of Experiences on Socialist Constructions, an institute under the Academy, informed Saman Vi-ngaket about the success of the visit marked by the signing of the 1988-89 cooperation programme on ideological work between the two countries.

Saman Vi-ngaket hailed the visit of the Soviet delegation, considering it as an important contribution to further strengthening the fraternal relations and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries.

He also spoke of the importance of the agreement reached and hoped that it can be implemented to the satisfaction of both sides.

The Soviet delegation left here on February 27 ending its 4-day visit to the Lao PDR.

Delegation Departs for Cuba, MPR Meetings

*BK261215 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT
26 Feb 88*

[Text] Vientiane, February 26 (KPL)—A Lao delegation, led by Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP CC, and head of its propaganda and training board, left here on February 24 for the Republic of Cuba to attend a conference of secretaries of the parties of fraternal socialist countries to be held in Havana from February 29 to March 3.

After Cuba, the same delegation, [will] attend a conference of socialist countries' parties' secretariats scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, (MPR) on March 16-17.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Saman Vi-ngaket, Politburo member and secretary of the LPRP CC.

Jose Manuel Garcia Torres, Yadmaaguine Dashnyan and Yuriy Mikheyev respectively ambassadors of Cuba, Mongolia and the Soviet Union to Laos were also present at the airport on this occasion.

Indochinese Historical Groups' Communiqué

*BK261355 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 8 Feb 88*

["Joint communiqué" issued by delegates of organizations for the study of histories of the parties of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia; issued in Vientiane and dated 7 February]

[Text] 1. The scientific research conference of the three organizations of the histories of the LPRP, CPV, and KPRP parties was held in Vientiane on 6 and 7 February, 1988.

2. The conference was attended by a delegation of the Commission for the Study of the History of the LPRP led by Comrade Sisana Sisan, chief of the commission; a delegation of the Institute for the Study of the History of the CPV led by Comrade Nguyen Van Phung, head of the institute; and a delegation of the Commission for the Study of the History of the KPRP led by Comrade Chey Saphon, head of the commission. Comrade Nguyen Sy Hoat, minister counselor to the ambassador of the SRV Embassy, and Comrade Li Hach, first secretary of the PRK Embassy to the LPDR, also attended the conference. Also attending the conference were representatives of certain committees under the LPRP Central Committee.

3. During the conference, the chief delegates welcomed with pleasure the presence and the address of Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan, Political Bureau member and secretary of the LPRP Central Committee.

4. Comrade Sisana Sisan read a report on the Lao people's movements of revolutionary struggle under the leadership of the Indochinese Communist Party and on the evolution and development of the LPRP. Comrade Chey Saphon read a report on the evolution of the Cambodian revolution under the leadership of the Indochinese Communist Party. Comrade Nguyen Van Phung read a report on certain necessary issues concerning the history of the Indochinese Communist Party that must be studied thoroughly.

5. The conference extensively studied and exchanged views on various issues raised for discussion.

6. The delegates of the three organizations for the study of the parties' histories unanimously reached an agreement on a program of mutual assistance and cooperation in this study, including exchanging lessons, specialists, information, and data on the parties' histories; mutual assistance in training and building cadres; coordination in conducting research in actual places; cooperation in examining a number of historic activities; regularly organizing consultative meetings; and so on. All these cooperation plans are stipulated in the cooperation agreements signed between the Cambodian and Vietnamese organizations for the study of their parties' histories and between the Lao and Vietnamese organizations for the study of their parties' histories in Hanoi respectively in September and October 1987.

6. [as heard] During the conference, the delegations paid a courtesy call on Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR. On this occasion, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane had a cordial talk with the delegations and expressed satisfaction over the glorious success of the conference. He recalled the evolution of activities and some lessons of the victorious struggle of the LPRP. He cited the role of President Ho Chi Minh in the Lao revolution. Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane was greatly pleased to see that the

three organizations for the study of parties' histories have maintained close cooperation, and he expressed the hope that the books about the histories of the three parties would be published in 1990, the year in which many major events will be celebrated. He said: The parties and peoples have entrusted very great and glorious tasks to those who study the parties' histories; I hope that you, comrades, will strive to be worthy of being entrusted with these tasks.

7. The conference solemnly condemned the Thai powerholders for the intensification of war acts—launching attacks to annex Lao territory in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province—acts of military adventurism which violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the LPDR and are an arrogant violation of the two Lao-Thai joint statements of 1979; they are also a breach of various basic principles in international relations. The conference fully supported the LPDR Government's statement of 25 January, 1988 and the report delivered by the chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers at the annual ordinary plenary session of the LPDR's SPC on 2 February 1988, demanding that the Thai powerholders end the attacks to annex Lao territory and settle the disputes through talks in hope of restoring the spirit of traditional friendship and the fraternal relations between the two peoples of Laos and Thailand in line with the aspirations and just interests of the peoples of the two countries as well as with the present common trend in Southeast Asia and the world.

8. The conference vigorously supported the national reconciliation policy and the five-point stand of the PRK and welcomed the past two meetings between Comrade Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk and their efforts to seek appropriate means to politically settle the Cambodian problem in line with the aspirations and just interests of the Cambodian people and in the interest of peace and stability in this region.

9. The success of this conference marks a milestone in a new development in the relations and cooperation among the organizations for the study of the histories of the three parties. It contributes to the enhancement of the spirit of great friendship, special solidarity and relations, and all-round cooperation among the three parties and the three peoples of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

10. The three delegations unanimously agreed to organize second and third scientific research conferences respectively in Phnom Penh in 1989 and in Hanoi in 1990 to exchange documents, data, and views on the history of the Indochinese Communist Party and on the relations among the three parties in the struggle against the U.S. imperialists.

[Dated] Vientiane, 7 February 1988

[Signed] Nguyen Van Phung, head of the delegation of the Institute for the Study of the History of the CPV

[Signed] Chey Saphon, head of the delegation of the Commission for the Study of the History of the KPRP

[Signed] Sisana Sisan, head of the delegation of the Commission for the Study of the History of the LPRP

Kaysone Phomvihan Meets Savannakhet Cadres

BK271159 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 27 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP CC, chairman of the Council of Ministers, had a talk recently with more than 200 cadres attending an enlarged session of the party Executive Committee of the central province of Savannakhet.

The session was chaired by Bounang Volachit, member of the LPRP CC, secretary of the provincial party committee and head of the Savannakhet administration.

Speaking about the world situation and the various economic phases Laos is to undergo during the transitory period as evaluated by the 5th plenum of the party Central Committee (4th congress). [sentence as received] This policy, said he, is aimed at further developing the country's economic bases, promoting the productive forces with faster tempo, and improving effective production and quality. He also pointed out the essence behind efforts of restructuring economic management being introduced at present—the raising of work productivity. Doing so, Kaysone Phomvihan said, the new party economic conception can truly be founded at grass roots, the socialist strongholds.

Questions on the reassignment of cadres suitable for their abilities was touched upon.

In conclusion, Kaysone Phomvihan instructed the cadres how to apply the resolution of the 5th plenum of the party CC (4th congress) in accordance with the concrete situation of Savannakhet.

During the session, the participants studied the resolution of the 5th plenum of the party CC (4th congress) and other political documents.

Central Committee Organizational Board Meets

BK271157 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 27 (KPL)—The organizational board of the party Central Committee, on February 25 held a conference here to review its last year's work.

Speaking at the conference, Saman Vi-gnaket, Politburo member and secretary of the LPRP CC pointed out achievements in organizational work in the past one year.

He also noted that cadres and workers have improved political knowledge and discipline. They have trust in the leadership of the party, and strive to improve their work. On the other hand, he pointed out shortcomings of cadres. Saman Vi-gnaket urged cadres and workers to contribute to the materialising of the resolution of the 5th plenum of the party CC (fourth congress).

State TV Director Views Role, Programs

BK290141 Bangkok THE NATION in English
29 Feb 88 p 4

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Vientiane—The clashes between Thai and Lao-tian troops have increased the viewership of Lao National Television (LNT), the only TV Station in this land-locked country.

Throughout the three months of fighting, LNT became the main government tool to present latest developments in the battles against the Thai troops in Sayaboury province.

"The progress of fighting each day is the top news that viewers are waiting for," said Bounmek Phengsavan, director general of LNT.

Lao TV fans have two choices—either to watch mundane local programme or tune to more popular Thai broadcasts on Channel 7 and Khon Kaen's Channel 4.

During the conflict, about 100,000 TV owners in and around the capital city as well as those living along the Thai-Lao border could watch the movements of Thai troops and F-5 jet fighters bombing Lao positions in the embattled area in Ban Romklao.

Bounmek said Lao viewers preferred the Lao reports on the fighting because "they are in unity with the government." However, he declined to comment on overall reports of Thai TV on the conflict, saying that his judgement could be partial.

Indeed, TV has become the most effective medium to keep the Lao people solidly behind the government. "At wartime like this, TV has contributed to the rise of public's patriotism," he added. LNT also mobilized the mass to support the government's tough resistance against the Thai troops.

On February 17, both countries agreed to a cease-fire and troop separation from the 70-80-square-kilometre dispute jungle area.

Of the two-and-a-half-hour daily broadcast beginning at 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, half of the programme is devoted to promoting government policy and projects. The rest are local and international news, along with educational, cultural and art programmes.

LNT's international news footage relies solely on the daily two-hour satellite feed from Moscow. The Soviet daily TV news summary is made available to the Soviet bloc countries. LNT uses an average of 10 minutes for its daily foreign news segment.

The Soviet satellite news on February 24, for instance, included a live broadcast of Soviet performance and medal tally in Calgary's Winter Olympics and Soviet newspapers' headline summary. All Soviet programmes are dubbed in Laotian language.

LNT, which began broadcasting in December 1983, will soon open the second TV station, in Savannakhet Province opposite Thailand's Mukdahan Province, by the end of this year. The Soviet Union and Vietnam have provided technical assistance to Lao TV.

Bounmek also said LNT is planning to launch its first afternoon broadcast on weekend holidays in the near future, which will focus mainly on educational programmes. Subsequently, the daily broadcast will also be increased to three hours or more.

To provide entertainment, LNT also runs feature films, mainly from the Soviet Union, which are shown in two or three installments.

The LNT chief admitted that Thai TV broadcasts are more popular among Laotian viewers due to their variety. He said he also watches the Thai TV to keep up with the Laotian audience.

Thai TV has never threatened Lao TV, according to Bounmek, because LNT is aimed at serving Laotians and promoting government works. That's why he said the Lao government has no plan to jam Thai TV broadcast, even during the thick of Thai-Lao clashes in Phitsanulok Province.

Right after the three-village dispute in Uttradit Province in 1984, the Lao government had jammed Thai broadcasts briefly. Thai officials here said the jamming does not work simply because it is very costly to completely block the public's viewing of Thai TV.

"We figure Laotian viewers can judge for themselves what they have seen on the Thai TV," Bounmak said. "It is entertaining to watch Thai TV, but it could also be detrimental to our people because it reflects a different reality," he said.

Many times, Bounmek said, Thai TV drama series show unhealthy scenes which are degrading for Laotian audience.

One of the biggest advantages derived from watching Thai TV was the international news programme, which has kept Lao government officials abreast of international developments.

As a public relations campaign, Khon Kaen's Channel 4 has been given a mandate to improve the Thai-Lao understanding.

Asked whether LNT is free to express its opinion, Bounmek said that the role and duty of a state TV is being enshrined in the party's resolutions, which serves as a guideline.

Savannakhet TV Station Under Construction

BK291050 Vientiane KPL in English
0904 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane, February 29 (KPL)—The building of a small size TV station in the central province of Savannakhet is now 40 percent completed, reported a local source.

According to the plan, the station is to start broadcasting from the coming Lao new year, in mid-April.

Philippines

Aquino Emissaries Confirm Meeting With Marcos

HK290945 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT
29 Feb 88

[Text] Manila, Feb 29 (AFP)—Philippine officials confirmed Monday that President Corazon Aquino's emissaries secretly met with her deposed predecessor Ferdinand Marcos in Hawaii last month to discuss his request to be allowed back home.

They gave scant details on the talks between Mr. Marcos and two Philippine congressmen related to Mrs. Aquino, but one of the emissaries said the talks could eventually relax Manila's indefinite ban on his homecoming.

Mr. Marcos and his family fled to Hawaii on February 26, 1986, one day after a popular revolt ended his 20-year rule and installed Mrs. Aquino as president in the wake of their fraud-marred election battle.

He vowed in Honolulu last week to return home even if it cost him his life.

"The president said it was on the initiative of President Marcos that (the emissaries) went to Honolulu," Mrs. Aquino's spokesman Teodoro Benigno said.

The emissaries were identified as Francisco Sumulong, the president's uncle and majority floor leader at the House of Representatives, and an Aquino cousin, Representative Egmidio Tanjuatco, a leader of the ruling coalition.

Mr. Marcos "wanted to send messages or signals to the president," Mr. Benigno told reporters.

"What those signals are I cannot give you details, but obviously it might have something to do with his desire to return," he said.

Mr. Benigno said there was "nothing, no official response to the message as far as I know" and that he did not know whether or not this would speed up Mr. Marcos's plans to return home.

"She said go there and listen," he said. "If we can listen to other people, why can't we listen to Mr. Marcos, who said that he had an important message to send."

Asked how the feelers were sent, Mr. Benigno said: "I don't know, but certainly there are ways to contact the government."

He said he was unaware of any plans to again send emissaries to Mr. Marcos, who still commands the loyalty of right-wing loyalist groups in the military as well as residents and officials in his native Ilocos region, north of Manila.

Mr. Tanjuatco told reporters Monday that he met alone with Mr. Marcos in a "neutral place" in Honolulu on January 26 after the former dictator sought the meeting through an unidentified Philippine intermediary, and that the meeting with Mr. Sumulong took place later.

"The President agrees that the matter of Mr. Marcos' desire to return should be viewed with both openness and objectivity and should be decided solely on the basis of where the Republic's best interests lie in the instant," he said.

He said Mr. Marcos reiterated a desire to return "at the earliest possible opportunity."

"He asked me to convey that message to President Aquino, including his assurance to help her government in any way he could," Mr. Tanjuatco said.

When Mr. Marcos was informed the Aquino government would raise his alleged ill-gotten wealth and fears that his return could be destabilizing, the former president said he expected this, but did not give a categorical answer, Mr. Tanjuatco said.

He said future meetings would depend on the reaction of the Aquino government to the initial contacts.

"Mr. Marcos may be eventually allowed to return to the country," he added.

Congressman Comments on Meeting

BK291350 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1030 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Former president Ferdinand Marcos may be allowed to return to the Philippines if he agrees to recognize President Cory Aquino and settles questions about his alleged ill-gotten wealth.

For the first time, the Aquino administration admitted the president sent two relatives to see Marcos in Honolulu last January 26th after receiving the first official message from Marcos about his desire to return to his homeland. Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said the president's emissaries, Congressman Egmidio Tanjuatco and Francisco Sumulong have reported to President Aquino about the initial talks but there has been no official response yet to Marcos' feelers. Mrs Aquino herself said "not yet", when asked by reporters today if she was allowing Marcos to return.

Senator Neptali Gonzales, former Justice Secretary, commented he did not believe in perpetual banishment or exile of any person.

Meanwhile, Congressman Egmidio Tanjuatco Jr today admitted having met with the former President in Honolulu last January 26th. In a news conference this afternoon Tanjuatco said President Aquino knew of the meeting with Marcos which was undertaken on an informal and unofficial basis. Tanjuatco said he agreed to meet with Marcos on two conditions, namely, that confidentiality would be maintained and that the meeting would take place on a neutral ground. During the news conference, Tanjuatco explained what transpired during his meeting with Marcos. [Begin Tanjuatco recording in progress] ...his desire to return to the Philippines at the earliest opportunity. He asked me to convey that message to the president. He will give assurance towards the government in any way he could. I replied that I would certainly relay the message. Anticipating the official reaction to that message however, I told him that questions would surely be raised on two points. First, how to [word indistinct] the issue of ill-gotten wealth and second, how to quell apprehension that his return will cause political instabilization. Mr Marcos and I discussed the foregoing points at some length but purely on an informal and exploratory basis.

In view of the private nature of my trip I was in no position to make any commitment as to specifics. Mr Marcos understood and accepted it. It was decided that the doors be kept open for future discussion and negotiations but again, without any commitment as to a timetable. Meanwhile, I would report to the president on our discussion upon my return to Manila, which, I have done.

The president agreed that the matter of Mr Marcos' desire to return should be viewed in both openness and objectivity and should be decided solely on the basis of where the republic's best interests lie in the instance. [end recording]

Conditions Set for Return

*HK290835 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0800 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Text] There are indications that the government may allow former President Marcos to return to the country. However, Senator Neptali Gonzales announced that Marcos' return will depend on whether he will agree to some conditions.

Meanwhile, in an interview with newsmen earlier today, President Aquino stated that it was still not the time for Mr Marcos to return to the country.

According to Gonzales, the government will consent to Marcos' return only if Marcos recognizes the present government and if the hidden wealth issue is resolved. Gonzales added that he was sure Marcos would be able to return to the country during President Aquino's term of office.

Enrile Favors Marcos Return

*HK291339 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT
29 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Manila, Feb 29 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] Mr. Tanjuatco said Monday that "the president agrees that the matter of Mr. Marcos' desire to return should be viewed with both openness and objectivity and should be decided solely on the basis of where the Republic's best interests lie in the instant.

"Mr. Marcos may be eventually allowed to return to the country," he told reporters, adding that the former ruler expected the current administration would raise pending charges of graft against him and fears that his return could be destabilizing.

Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, a former defense minister who led a military mutiny that triggered the popular revolt that toppled Mr. Marcos, said his former ally should be allowed to return because "this is his homeland".

Pro-Aquino Senator Ernesto Maceda told reporters he favors the return of Mr. Marcos in the same way that he favored the 1983 return from U.S. exile of Benigno Aquino, Mrs. Aquino's husband—who was murdered at the Manila airport.

But Senators Vicente Paterno and Teofisto Guingona, both Aquino allies, said the former president should be barred from the Philippines because the situation remained "unfavorable" and the government should first bolster the economy.

Formation of New Aquino Coalition Reported

*HK270235 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 26 Feb 88*

[Text] A new coalition headed by President Aquino was formally formed last night, discarding Liberal Party [LP] members but signing up 28 congressmen who ran as independents. The new coalition, tentatively called Laban ng Pilipinas [Struggle of the Philippines], was formed during a party at Fort Santiago hosted by Representative Jose Cojuangco. Liberal Party congressmen and senators were not invited.

Speaker Ramon Mitra was reportedly being groomed as the new coalition's president, and Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos as secretary general. Mitra had earlier refused to accept the post.

The entry of 28 congressmen who ran as independents led by Representative Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan, Mandaluyong is expected to strengthen the Cory coalition, which was challenged by the LP at the last local poll.

6 Soldiers, NPA Killed in 'Fierce' Battle

*BK291149 Manila PNA in English 1016 GMT
29 Feb 88*

[Text] Manila, Feb. 29 (PNA-OANA)—Six soldiers and an undetermined number of communist rebels were killed in a fierce gun battle Sunday in the central Philippine province of Negros Oriental, the Philippine Constabulary reported Monday.

Military reports said the skirmish erupted Sunday afternoon when hordes of communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas attacked a soldiers' detachment in one of the province's remote towns.

The attack, reports said, caught the outnumbered soldiers by surprise, forcing them to pull back while awaiting for reinforcements from nearby military camps.

Arrival of fresh troops was delayed, however, enabling the rebels to overrun the camp, ransack it of its armaments and burn it before fleeing.

Investigation showed that the reinforcements had to take two motorized boats leading to the beleaguered detachment to avoid a possible ambush by a blocking force of the rebels.

Philippine Airforce helicopter gunships likewise failed to take off as it was already nightfall when the pilots were alerted of the rebel attack.

As of Monday afternoon, the constabulary said, an army contingent was pursuing the rebels.

The attack came a day after 12 Scout Rangers were ambushed and killed when their truck hit three powerful land mines believed planted by the rebels in Bicol region south of here.

One of the fatalities was a son of a general assigned in the northern Philippines.

De Villa Orders Officers to 'Take Initiative'
HK291125 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 29 Feb 88 pp 1, 9

[Text] Gen. Renato S. de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff, yesterday told military field commanders to "take, and maintain, the initiative" to turn back a succession of rebel attacks on military installations and units in the countryside.

De Villa's order came a day after communist rebels killed 12 Army Scout Rangers, among them an officer son of a senior AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] general, in an ambush in Bicol last Saturday.

"I am encouraging all officers to remember this—we cannot just sit and wait to be decimated; we must take the initiative, and maintain it all the time," De Villa said as he ordered more troops to go after guerrillas who struck in Cagayan, Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions.

In the Bicol attack, an Army team under 1st Lt. Felix Brawner III, the only son of Northern Luzon military commander, Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner Jr. and a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1984, was on its way to Jovellar town in Albay when it was fired upon by about 100 rebels near the boundary of Guinobatan and Jovelar towns.

The M35 truck carrying the soldiers struck an improvised landmine planted by the guerrillas blowing up the truck and killing 12 soldiers. The rebels also sprayed the soldiers with automatic fire.

Taken from the soldiers were four M-16 rifles, three M-14 rifles, two M-635 rifles, and M-203 grenade launcher, about a hundred rounds of assorted bullets and other military equipment. The military truck was a total wreck.

Killed in the attack were Brawner, the commanding officer of the First Scout Ranger Regiment Fire Support Company; T/Sgt. Bayle Gangas, S/Sgt. Victor Agaran, S/Sgt. Arturo Mallo, Sgt. Jesus Clar, Cpl. Adriano Canas, Cpl. Dario Espiritu, Pfc. Samuel Lipogpog, Pfc. Joseph Rumagos, and Privates Demetrio Bonita Jr., Rolando Cinco and Allan Herminigildo.

The military said the rebels also suffered several fatalities when the troops put up a brief resistance before they were cut down by the rebels' fire.

It was the biggest single blow to the military in the Bicol region since a new PC-INP regional commander, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Taturan, was designated there two weeks ago.

The Army ranger units in the Bicol region were stationed only last September 1987 after guerrillas blasted several major bridges and railroad bridges in the region in an attempt to cut the region from Metro Manila.

De Villa said sustained military operations would keep the rebels always on the run, denying them their mass support in the populated communities.

"You can never gain victory by being on the defensive, you can only gain victory by being on the offensive—even if it is only a small unit offensive," he said, adding that the field commanders must improve their intelligence network to pinpoint rebel lairs.

Meanwhile, at least 13 people were killed in separate clashes between government forces and communist guerrillas in the last four days in Cagayan, Bohol, Leyte, Zamboanga del Sur, Davao del Norte and Zamboanga del Norte.

In Cagayan, three rebels were killed and two policemen were wounded after a group of policemen turned back a 30-man rebel band that swooped down on a remote village in Sta. Ana town.

In Bohol, rebels killed two Army sergeants escorting a junior officer, Capt. Anacleto Chagas. Chagas was wounded but escaped from the rebels.

In Leyte, troops killed two guerrillas after a brief encounter in Mag-aso last Friday.

In Mindanao, guerrillas escaped with 19 guns after over-powering local militia units in separate encounters over the weekend in Zamboanga del Sur and in Davao City.

The rebels also killed the local chief in Barangay Tipan, Tampilisan town Saturday after disarming nine CHDF members in the area.

Pampanga NPA Shadow Government Reported
HK291105 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 29 Feb 88 p 8

[By correspondent Elmer Cato]

[Text] Angeles City—Communist-led shadow governments have been established in Porac, Pampanga and there are clear indications that these are expanding, the military has reported.

Lt. Col. Victorino Mendoza, commanding officer of the 1st Philippine Air Force [PAF], Security Group, revealed yesterday that rebels' provisional revolutionary governments are in place in Porac, Pampanga's largest municipality west of here.

Mendoza said New People's Army rebels belonging to the Larangang Gerilya ng Porac [Porac Guerilla Camp] have established an invisible government in Barangay Pulong Santol, which he described as the most influenced and organized rebel-held zone and where the PAF's 3rd Rifle Squadron is based.

Mendoza also disclosed that rebels were also preparing to put up shadow governments in the Porac barangay of Sepung Bulacon, Palat, and Salu, and were expanding their activities in Barangay Balubad, Babo Sacan, and Mitla.

The Larangang Gerilya ng Porac, according to Mendoza, is led by a certain Larry Mendoza, alias Ka [Comrade] Girlie.

Mendoza based his disclosures from rebel documents seized during recent encounters with communist rebels in the town.

Meanwhile, Leftist groups here said yesterday they were strongly considering going underground in the face of what they described as a "systematized harassment and killings of progressives" allegedly by military-backed Rightists deputy squads.

Leaders of the Leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) [New Nationalist Alliance] told a press conference they were seriously considering extra-legal options to counter what they said was Rightist-initiated violence against them.

"They are pushing us too far, leaving us no option but to seek extra-legal methods. We have the right to protect ourselves with arms if necessary," said Gil Lim, secretary of Luzon [Central Luzon].

Bayan, considered to be the largest above-ground leftist Organization here, is slowly being driven underground, Lim said.

Lim's pronouncements followed what he said was a "campaign of terror" launched recently by Right-wing death squads targetting for liquidation prominent Leftist leaders in Pampanga and which have also left at least two Bayan leaders here dead.

"The civilian authority has lost control over the military. The military now controls the civilian authority," Lim told reporters as he again challenged Pampanga Governor Bren Guiao to act on the reported formation of Rightist groups in the province.

Lim also revealed that only last week, armed men identified as belonging to a faction in the San Fernando police force abducted and tortured Edwin Herrera, a leader of the League of Filipino Students here.

Amnesty Program for NPA Ends 28 February
HK290439 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] The amnesty program of President Aquino ends today. Malacanang sources did not say if there will be an extension of the amnesty program. Under the amnesty program, NPA rebels who surrender to the government will be taught livelihood projects and given money for the guns that they surrender so that they can live new lives with their families. They will be sent to rehabilitation centers for assistance and training programs.

250 Beat Deadline

HK291155 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1100 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Two hundred fifty NPA members and sympathizers from Pangasinan have surrendered to the military in order to beat the amnesty deadline. The surrenderees were headed by five rebels who left their comrades in the mountains in their desire to be incorporated once again into the mainstream of society, and to cooperate with the government. They were identified as Cornelio Galleto, alias Ka [Comrade] Molong; Herminjildo Agsaway, alias Ka Diego; Ferdinand Campos; Alfredo Ibasco, alias Ka Boyet; and Remeo Sarmiento, alias Ka Eddie. The rebels also surrendered one M-16 rifle, an automatic carbine, a Springfield rifle, and two radio sets.

Former MNLF Leader Seriously Wounded
HK291019 Quezon City MALAYA in English 29 Feb 88 pp 1, 6

[By Manuel Del Carmen]

[Text] Zamboanga City—A former chief of staff of the Moro National Liberation Front who has been nominated to the soon to be constituted Regional Consultative Council [RCC] for the Mindanao autonomous region was seriously wounded while his companion was killed when their car was fired upon by unidentified men Saturday night in front of the Cantaka hotel here.

Dambong Sali, a nominee to the RCC of Sulu Representatives Abdu Sakur Tan and Arden Anni, was given a 50-50 chance to live by doctors at the Brent Hospital.

Killed on the spot was Nader Jalani, a former MNLF commander who returned to the fold of the law in 1982 and headed a group of rebel surrenderers called Association of Moro National Liberation Front-New-Society.

Sources said Sali resigned as MNLF chief of staff 10 years ago. He has been lying low since then although he has not surrendered.

Col. Adams Jimenez, deputy regional PC-INP commander for administration, said Sali was to have taken his oath of allegiance before President Aquino during her stopover here from her Tawitawi trip last Friday.

Jimenez said Sali was not able to take his oath because of Mrs Aquino's tight schedule.

Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, chairman of the Peace Commission, directed the regional health office here to give medical aid to Sali.

Authorities have not established the motive for the shooting or the identity of the shooting or the identity of the assailants.

The RCC will help Congress draft the organic charter for the autonomous Mindanao region. Its creation has been opposed by the MNLF.

MNLF Rejects Government's Peace Initiative

*HK290851 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Text] A top official of the MNLF said that they will not cooperate with the government in its peace initiative through the Regional Consultative Commission (RCC), according to a report by May Leoncito of station DXND.

[Begin Leoncito recording] A top official of the Moro National Liberation Front or MNLF announced that they will not cooperate with the government in its peace initiative through the RCC, claiming that it was useless.

Muslimin Sema, chairman of (Usara) Cotabato Revolutionary Committee, said that the RCC is useless as well as it poses an obstruction to Bangsa Moro [Moro homeland] rights. Sema said that [words indistinct], adding that the RCC will not resolve the problem of autonomy unless the government considers recognizing the MNLF as representative of the Moro people, and respects its representation in the Organization of Islamic Conference. Sema also criticized the nominees to the RCC saying that they were not genuine representatives of the Muslims in their struggle and aspirations.

This report is for DXND, Kidapawan, and May Leoncito reporting for PFCB [Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcasters]. [end recording]

Denies Links With Alsa Masa

*HK291313 Quezon City MALAYA in English 29 Feb 88
p 10*

[By Henri A. Piosca]

[Text] Dinaig, Maguindanao—The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) denied any alliance with Davao City-based vigilante groups claiming it cannot maintain friendship with any armed group directly controlled by the government and the military.

The denial was issued by MNLF field commander Muslimin Sema at his rebel camp here following published reports in Davao City tabloids saying that the rebel group extended military training to Alsa Masa and other vigilante groups last year.

Sema, who holds a rank of brigadier general and commands rebel forces in the provinces of North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao, said the Alsa Masa sought the assistance of MNLF for combat training but was rejected by the rebel front.

Sema said, Alsa Masa members were personally sent by radio broadcaster Jun Pala, the alleged spokesman of the Alsa Masa, with the help of a Muslim contact in Davao City.

Reports said the Alsa Masa was willing to get the services of the MNLF for military training with an undisclosed amount of money and high powered firearms as payment.

The MNLF, according to Sema, would only extend assistance to armed men who are fighting against the government. "We are ready to help armed groups, especially the revolutionary forces, which are at war against the government," Sema said.

However, he refused to elaborate on reports that the MNLF was also maintaining an alliance with the New Peoples Army in the provinces of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat where communist insurgents operate.

The MNLF commander said physical contacts with the NPA rebels in the two provinces were unavoidable. He insisted, however, that the MNLF has not yet formally coordinated its military operations with the insurgents against government forces.

The only reported alliance between the MNLF and the NPA rebel groups was in the two Lanao provinces where MNLF commander Solitario and NDF spokesman for North-Central Mindanao Ike de los Reyes made public their cooperation in press interviews.

Calls Mitra's Mission 'Failure'

*HK291013 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 27 Feb 88 pp 1, 8*

[By C. Florentino]

[Text] King Fahd of Saudi Arabia refused an audience with Speaker Ramon Mitra, who was there on a mission to block the Moro National Liberation Front's bid for full membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] according to MNLF chief Nur Misuari.

Misuari branded Mitra's mission "a complete failure," though Mitra, upon arriving here Thursday, said ranking Saudi and OIC officials assured him they did not favor dismemberment of the country.

Misuari revealed this in a telephone conversation with MNLF spokesman Daut Rey Ibrahim Uy from Islamabad, Pakistan.

Mitra had said that the House delegation met with Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'id al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and OIC Secretary-General Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada.

Misuari, who was informed of developments by the MNLF's liaison officer in the OIC, said King Fahd, upon learning of the President's request for his help in stopping the MNLF membership bid, immediately "denied the audience requested by Speaker Mitra and his delegation."

Instead, Misuari said, the King relegated the task of receiving the Philippine mission to his minister of foreign affairs.

Uy told the INQUIRER that Prince 'Abd al-'Aziz meanwhile "avoided the issue" of MNLF OIC membership when Mitra raised it.

Al-Faysal, Misuari said, told Mitra that the MNLF-OIC issue has "no bearing to your mission officially with us." The OIC, Al-Faysal said, is independent of Saudi Arabia.

Mitra's talks with Al-Faysal centered only on the possibility of getting Islamic banks to invest in the Philippines.

Uy, reading from notes of his conversation with Misuari, also said Pirzada never met with Mitra's delegation.

He quoted Pirzada as saying, "if there is nothing new which your government is offering, there is no need for us to meet."

Uy said Mitra's "white lies, intentional lies, only hurt further the wounds already afflicted on the hearts of the Bangsa Moro and the OIC because (he is) putting words into the mouth of the OIC now."

Uy said Misuari "lamented" the President's move to meet with MNLF field commanders who, he said are not authorized to negotiate with any government official, "much more the President of this country."

"Is the President so desperate?" Uy quoted Misuari as asking.

President Aquino last Tuesday asked Misuari through Nur Khan, MNLF central committee member, to give her a chance to prove her sincerity in settling the Muslim problem. But Misuari said he had given her all the chances in the last two years, but that she failed to take advantage of them.

Uy belittled the President's P1 billion gift to Muslim provinces in Mindanao, branding it as government propaganda meant to soften up the Muslims.

On reports of MNLF forces massing on the border of two northern Mindanao provinces, Uy said the Muslim rebel group is "prepared defensively to protect their territory to the last man if provoked into a war."

He continued, "We have no intention of launching any military attack against the government forces of President Aquino." The MNLF troop movements in the South, Uy said, have been ordered by Misuari to "withdraw from one defensive line in order to avoid any confrontation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

Uy confirmed that the MNLF has used arms purchased by their leaders abroad. He refused to identify the sources of these arms, but said that these were purchased with MNLF funds obtained through business transactions both here and overseas.

General Foresees No Confrontation With MNLF

*HK251230 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 25 Feb 88*

[Text] Southern Command chief Major General Cesar Tapia firmly believes that the MNLF will not launch an armed confrontation if the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] rejects its membership bid. Tapia said the MNLF commanders value the peace reigning in Mindanao. According to him, the military forces are stronger than of the one of the MNLF.

[Begin Tapia recording in English] The MNLF commanders, the [word indistinct] entire members, and our friends who are around. I do not think that our Muslim brothers are willing to see another armed confrontation in this area. I think they have learned to appreciate the blessings of peace. [passage indistinct]

The shipment has been in a level where the MNLF can arm 70 or 80 percent of their members. So, I think that the armed might of the MNLF will still be within manageable level as far as the military is concerned. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the MNLF is seeking the support of newly elected Mindanao officials in their bid to gain membership in the OIC. According to the MNLF central committee vice chairman, their support will show the officials' interest for the future of the next generation of Muslims.

In reaction to this request, Southern Command Chief Cesar Tapia said it is ridiculous for a rebel organization to expect support from local government officials. Tapia stressed that this move is an act of treason. Here are the details from Jerry Ponteverada, direct from Zamboanga City:

[Begin Ponteverada recording in English] Major General Cesar Tapia, southern command chief, said a deal made by the MNLF with the elected leaders of government in Mindanao to support the bid for membership in the OIC is obviously ridiculous and shameful. It is ridiculous for an organization fighting for secession to even think of getting the support of government officials who were elected by the people, and more ridiculous for a rebel organization to expect and rely on government support for an act that was a great violation of the laws of the land. Tapia said the government officials who gave in to the request will be committing treason. He said it would mean that they are supporting the rebels. Tapia said, "I wish the MNLF would not become a member of the OIC. I can foresee a bigger problem if they do, because when we will be fighting against internal and external forces that are out of [word indistinct] the country of its sovereignty. [words indistinct] the report saying that already 36 out of the 46 member nations of the OIC have committed to endorse the MNLF for membership. Any Muslim country can come out in the open and declare its support. But how many of them could really support the MNLF mission to separate from the country? MNLF central committee vice chairman Habibi Haji Habtimil Hassan has written the elected officials of Mindanao asking them to communicate with OIC Secretary General Syed Sharafuddin Pirzada and endorse the MNLF for membership in the organization."

This news is brought to you by the Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcasters. [end recording]

Committee Fails To Act On Ramos, De Villa
HK291157 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The Commission on Appointments Committee on Defense once more failed to act on the nominations of Fidel Ramos and General Renato De Villa as defense secretary and Armed Forces chief of staff, respectively. Here are the details from Jojo Ismael:

[Begin recording] After about 2 hours a closed-door executive meeting of the Committee on Defense, committee chairman Senator Mamintal Tamano announced to newsmen that his committee has again postponed making a decision over the nominations of Ramos and De Villa.

Tamano explained that a careful study is needed on the cases of Ramos and De Villa due to the sensitivity of their posts. Tamano also told senate reporters that the proposed positions of the two men are vital to national security. However, Tamano expressed hopes that the hearing of Ramos and De Villa's appointments would be decided tomorrow by the Defense Committee so that it can be endorsed to the Commission on Appointments. The commission is scheduled to hold a plenary session on Wednesday.

Jojo Ismael, Bureau of Broadcast Services News, Senate.
[end recording]

Plot To Free Rebel Officer Honasan Reported
HK290523 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Naval authorities have stepped up security measures for arrested rebel officer Gringo Honasan after receiving reports that some rebel officials and other persons were planning to free him.

Honasan is being detained in a Navy gunship at Balayan Bay, near Batangas. The Navy also transports family members wishing to visit the former officer, who allegedly led the 28 August coup.

According to reports, some supporters of Honasan had already approached Navy employees and solicited their help in the plan to free the former officer. They were allegedly offering large sums of money.

House To Probe Soviet Presence in Surigao
HK241001 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 24 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The House subcommittee on Eastern and Western economic affairs voted yesterday to look into the reported presence of Soviet nationals in Surigao.

The committee decision came after Rep. Charito Plaza (Unido [United Nationalist Democratic Organization], Agusan del Norte) reported that her constituents were alarmed over the presence of Soviets in the area, where they were seen visiting the Nonoc Nickel Co. unescorted.

Since the country has only cultural and no economic relations with the Soviet Union, Plaza said, the Soviets are supposed to be escorted by the PC on their trips to the countryside, in accordance with the rules of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation.

The committee, headed by Rep. Jaime Lopez (Laban [Lakas ng Bayan—Strength of the Nation], Manila), was conducting a hearing on resolution 436 authored by Rep. Natalio Beltran (Laban, Romblon) seeking an inquiry into the reports that the Philippine government and the Soviet Union are quietly conducting negotiations for the establishment of Soviet projects in the country.

Ambassador Menandro Galenzo, acting secretary for the European affairs, informed the committee that the two countries do not have as yet any economic agreement. The RP [Republic of the Philippines]-USSR diplomatic ties were established in 1976.

Lopez said the committee would invite Philippine Ambassador to the Soviet Union Alejandro Melchor to shed light on his proposal for wider bilateral ties between

the two countries. He said the committee found out that Melchor played a major role in the proposed establishment of Soviet projects in the country.

The proposed projects includes a joint venture in deep-sea fishing, exploitation of non-ferrous metal deposits, the use of Cebu and Batangas shipyards for repair of Soviet commercial vessels for an annual fee of \$30 million, rehabilitation of the Nonce Nickel refinery in Surigao, construction of high-voltage transmission lines for Philippine National Oil Co. in Isabela, rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railways, five-year employment for 2,500 Filipino workers in the construction of a Ukraine steel mill and employment for 1,300 Filipino workers in the construction of an electronic assembly plant in Moscow.

Senator Demands Role in Bases Inspection
HK291025 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 29 Feb 88 p 1

[By staff writer Julius Fortuna]

[Text] The Philippine government will definitely insist on being a third party to U.S. and USSR monitoring teams that will investigate whether a certain class of nuclear weapons are stored in U.S. bases here.

Under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty between the U.S. and the USSR, each party is allowed "access to inspection" of areas where intermediate range nuclear weapons might be stored.

"As host country, we will definitely insist on representation in accordance with this provision for access to inspection," Sen. Wigberto Tanada told the GLOBE over the weekend.

Tanada, who is a member of the Senate, which under the Constitution will ratify any future treaty on the U.S. bases, has filed Senate Bill No. 66 declaring the adoption of a nuclear-free policy for the Philippines.

The Soviet government had declared that it is willing to cooperate with the Philippine government concerning inspection of U.S. bases in Philippine territory.

Speaking for the Soviet government, Yuriy Raikov told an audience at the University of the Philippines last February 12 that his government is willing to cooperate on this respect.

"Access for inspection to military bases is an absolutely real thing, especially in the light of the experience after the signing of the treaty on the elimination of intermediate and short-range missiles," Raikov said.

Directing his proposal to the U.S. and Philippine governments, he said that "we are prepared to substantiate access to inspection if other states agree to take similar steps."

In a press conference last Saturday, Tanada also announced that local governments whose constituents number more than 12 million have passed resolutions supporting the nuclear-free provision in the 1987 Constitution.

Eight provinces, 10 cities, and one town have furnished the office of Tanada copies of their resolutions which ban the storage and damage [as published] of nuclear weapons in their areas.

The Quezon City government initiated in 1986 the ban on nuclear weapons in its areas of jurisdiction.

The provinces which passed the anti-nuclear weapons resolutions are: Palawan, Surigao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Western Samar, Metro Manila, Iloilo, Agusan del Norte, and Nueva Ecija.

Cities: Gingoog, Ormoc, Gen. Santos, San Jose, Quezon City, San Pablo, Cabanatuan, Puerto princesa, Cebu, and Tagbilaran.

The only town which has so far passed the resolution is Aliaga, Nueva Ecija.

Tarlac To Demand 'Impact Funding' From U.S.
HK291121 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 29 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Tarlac, Tarlac—The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Tarlac [Tarlac Provincial Council] will file separate proposals for "impact funding" from the United States government similar to those made by the municipality of Capas as payment for land use of American military and communications facilities in the province.

Capas Mayor Hermes Frias earlier sought an annual "impact funding" of half a million dollars from the U.S. to cover incomes and opportunities lost by the municipality because of the use of some 20,000 hectares of land by the Crow Valley Weapons Range, and the Naval Communications and Air Force Communications stations in Camp O'Donnell, Capas.

The 20,000 hectares covers some 53 percent of the town's total land area.

One of the towns is Bamban, where the U.S. Radio Beacon annex is located, using up some 900 hectares of the town's land area (five percent). These do not include those hosting American military reservations.

The other town is Concepcion, where the biggest U.S. communications satellite in the Far East is located.

Taiwan Dissident Ordered Deported to U.S.
*HK270517 Hong Kong AFP in English 0456 GMT
27 Feb 88*

[Text] Manila, Feb 27 (AFP)—Exiled Taiwan dissident Hsu Hsin-liang, arrested here earlier this month while trying to return to Taiwan, has been ordered deported to the United States, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

The Malaya said Mr. Hsu, detained with a false Philippine passport at Manila airport on February 11 while en route from the United States to Taiwan, has been ordered deported to the United States by an immigration court.

His lawyer here is appealing the decision, it added.

The report could not be immediately confirmed.

Mr. Hsu, who was making his third unsuccessful attempt to return to Taiwan, has lived in exile in the United States since 1979.

Immigration authorities here said after his arrest he could not be sent to Taiwan because the government there refused to admit him and could not be deported to the United States because he only had refugee status there.

Mr. Hsu has called on Manila to intercede with the Taiwan government to allow him to return.

Thailand

Preparations Under Way for Border Talks

Border Checkpoints To Be Reopened
*BK280556 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
28 Feb 88 p 1*

[Excerpts] Thailand is to open four border checkpoints to Laos in Nakhon Phanom Province in a move intended to create a favourable atmosphere for talks in Bangkok tomorrow on the Ban Romklao boundary dispute.

Laos yesterday officially confirmed its decision to send a high-level diplomatic delegation to Bangkok to negotiate a settlement to the conflict, diplomatic sources said.

The Laotian delegation will fly in for talks aboard a special plane, the sources said.

However, Vientiane had yet to give precise details yesterday of who would lead the delegation and the number of members.

Thai Ambassador to Laos, Niran Phanuphong, left Vientiane for Bangkok yesterday to help prepare for the discussions that are expected to be held at the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

While the Laotian delegation leader has not yet been disclosed, Foreign Ministry sources said it was believed Vientiane was likely to pick Deputy Foreign minister Souban Salitthilat as its chief negotiator because of his diplomatic finesse.

The reopening of the checkpoints was ordered by the Second Army, according to sources, and came hot on the heels of a decision by Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut to send leading music bands and singers as "special envoys" to perform in Vientiane to foster closer Thai-Lao ties.

Nakhon Phanom Governor Uthai Nakpricha said yesterday that as of tomorrow, Thai and Laotian people will be allowed to resume normal cross-border activities similar to before the fighting at Ban Romklao in Phitsanulok.

Mr Uthai said Thai and Laotian villagers will be allowed to trade and exchange visits as usual at four border points at Ban Paen of Tha Uthane District and in Muang and That Phanom districts.

The governor said he realised the closure of the checkpoints has resulted in a shortage of consumer goods in the Laotian province of Khammouane, and it was believed the reopening would alleviate the problem.

Mr Uthai said Laotian villagers who wished to cross the border to trade in Nakhon Phanom would have to follow the usual immigration and customs procedures.

"We believe that from now on, Thai-Lao relations will steadily improve," he said.

Thailand has two permanent border checkpoints with Laos in Nong Khai and Mukdahan and several temporary checkpoints along the 1,400-kilometre common border.

Meanwhile, military sources said Gen Chawalit is to send leading music bands and singers to perform in Vientiane on March 5 to foster Thai-Lao relations.

Gen Chawalit's special peace envoys will include the country-rock groups Caravan and Carabao, folk singer Phonsak Songsaeng and country singer Phongthep Kra-donchamnan.

The musicians will perform for Laotian audiences in Vientiane on March 5 at the end of the 15-day ceasefire in the Ban Romklao border conflict.

Gen Chawalit led a military delegation to Vientiane on Tuesday and Wednesday following truce talks in Bangkok last week.

The Laotians presented Gen Chawalit with two white doves, symbolising "their sincerity for peace between the two countries".

Laos Postpones Talks Until 3 March

*BK290101 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
29 Feb 88 p 1*

[Text] Talks on resolving the Thai-Lao border dispute, scheduled to begin today in Bangkok, were postponed for three days when Vientiane informed the Foreign Ministry yesterday that a Laotian delegation would not be able to arrive here until Thursday.

The Laotian message was conveyed to the Foreign Ministry through the Thai charge d'affaires, Prathuang Rotphrom, at the Thai Embassy in Vientiane.

He informed the ministry that the Lao side would send a delegation for talks on March 3, but said Vientiane did not state who would be leading the group.

Laos is expected to send a list of delegates to Bangkok today, sources said.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila told reporters that Thailand was waiting to welcome the Laotian delegation.

Thailand was ready to discuss the border conflict with whoever Laos chooses to send, he said.

Permanent secretary for foreign affairs, M.R. Kasemsamorn Kasemsi, said he did not believe the delay would cause problems.

Thailand and Laos have until March 5 to begin negotiations before the current ceasefire agreement expires, he said.

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon has extended an invitation to Laotian Prime Minister Kaysone Phomviharn to send a delegation today for talks in Bangkok to settle the border dispute.

Members of Delegations Named

*BK291225 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia
in Thai 1030 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Text] Sarot Chawanawirat, Foreign Ministry spokesman and director general of the Information Department, held a news conference today at 1400 at the Foreign Ministry's Press Center to report on the progress of the Thai-Lao talks.

[Begin Sarot Chawanawirat recording] At 0830 today, Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat invited the Thai charge d'affaires, Mrs Prathuang Rotphrom, to a meeting at the Lao Foreign Ministry and handed her a message from His Excellency Kaysone Phomviharn to the Thai prime minister. In the letter, dated 26 February, His Excellency Kaysone says that the LPDR Government recognized the agreements reached between the Lao and Thai military delegations and agreed with their

proposal to hold political talks to settle the current dispute in accordance with law and justice, based on the 1907 French-Siamese Treaty and related maps.

In response to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon's invitation to Laos to send a delegation to meet with a Thai delegation in Bangkok at an early date, His Excellency Kaysone says that he is pleased to inform the Thai prime minister that the LPDR Government will send a government delegation to Bangkok on 3 March for talks with a Thai Government delegation. The Lao delegation will be headed by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit, and will leave Vientiane at 0930 on 3 March.

The Lao delegation will include 14 members altogether. The official delegation will consist of five persons, including delegation leader Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of the LPA General Political Department. The Lao Foreign Ministry has informed Thailand that Thonglai's position is equal to that of a cabinet minister. Another member of the official delegation is Thongloun Sisavali, deputy minister attached to the Council of Ministers. Thonglai and Thongloun have participated here in previous talks. A team of four persons will accompany the Lao official team, most of whom are from the Lao Foreign Ministry. In addition, five delegation members will be from the mass media. The group is scheduled to arrive in Bangkok at 1100 on 3 March. The talks are expected to be held immediately on Thursday afternoon, and to continue on Friday.

The list of Thai delegates has been approved by the prime minister. The Thai delegation will be headed by the permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, M.R. Kasemsamorn Kasemsi. The Thai delegation will include: either the permanent secretary or deputy permanent secretary of the Interior Ministry; General Phat Akkhanibut, deputy Armed Forces chief of staff; Suwit Sutthanukun, secretary general of the National Security Council; Major General Wichian Sangphraiwan, director of the Armed Forces Survey Department; Lieutenant General Charan Kunlawanit; and other concerned officials, including the directors general of the Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

VOFA Urges Sincerity in Upcoming Lao Talks

*BK261445 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia
in Thai 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88*

["Article" entitled: "Thai-Lao Dispute Can Only Be Solved by Sincere Negotiations"]

[Text] The tension along the Thai-Lao border at Ban Romklao has ended, returning the situation to normal. The Thai-Lao military coordination officials have worked earnestly to implement the four-point joint Thai-Lao statement in an effort to promote an favorable atmosphere for a negotiated political settlement of the Thai-Lao border dispute. However, the world community continues to follow the development of political negotiations, which are to begin within 15 days after the

cease-fire in accordance with the 17 February joint statement, and whether they will achieve the desired goal of solving the border dispute.

Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila said in an interview that the Foreign Ministry was pleased with the consultations between Thai and Lao military delegations, which culminated in the joint statement. He also said the Foreign Ministry will conduct diplomatic negotiations called for in the joint statement on the basis of the Siamese-French agreement of 1907 and relevant maps. At the meeting of 16-17 February, he said the Lao side was ready to accept all points in the joint statement for the sake of ending the battle. Sitthi said the Foreign Ministry briefed envoys of 51 countries on the border dispute and instructed the Thai ambassador to Vientiane to assess the views of the Lao Government on the joint statement and political negotiation. Answering correspondent's questions about conditions for a political negotiation with Laos, the foreign minister said Thailand is open on the issue—it is ready to accept any Lao delegate, the Lao foreign minister or whoever, to negotiate on the basis of the concluded agreement. He said Thailand is ready to receive any level of Lao delegate, including Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat.

Thailand has always shown its determination to promote good ties with Laos at both governmental and people-to-people levels. Thailand is also sincere in its search for peaceful settlement of the dispute, as is evidenced by its acceptance of the Lao military delegation for talks with the Thai counterpart on the Ban Romklao dispute that recently ended successfully.

The above statement by the Thai foreign minister emphasized Thailand's long-standing view favoring peaceful settlement of the Ban Romklao border dispute. Thailand is well aware of the profound, inseparable relationship that has long existed between the Thai and Lao people, and is confident that the dispute can eventually be solved by political means. In any event, in order for the coming negotiations for political settlement of the dispute to be successful, both Thailand and Laos must be sincere and the negotiations must proceed on the basis of the law, justice of the 1907 Siamese-French agreement, and a fraternal spirit. In this way the negotiations will bring peace and happiness to the Thai and Lao peoples and the region. Thailand hopes that on negotiation day the Lao delegation will realize this and comply with the desire of the Thai and Lao peoples.

Military Says Government Ordered Talks
BK270205 Bangkok THE NATION in English
27 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Thai military, denying reports that they bypassed the Thai Foreign Ministry in signing the Thai-Lao cease-fire accord, said yesterday the government ordered them to hold the peace talks.

"The supreme commander (Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut) had been ordered by the government to lead a Thai delegation in talks with the Laotian military delegation," Lt Gen Sihadet Bunnak, the armed forces' spokesman, told reporters.

"The military is a state mechanism," Sihadet said, praising Premier Prem Tinsulanon for his "sharp and correct" decision to accept Laotian Premier Kaysone Phomviharn's proposal for military talks.

"The prime minister played a prominent role in solving the problem," said Sihadet.

Kaysone on Feb 13 sent a message to Prem proposing for military talks aimed at ending the border fight. An estimated 700 soldiers from both sides died in the battle.

Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Thai acting supreme commander, and Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of general staff of the Laotian People's Army, met in Bangkok on Feb 16 and 17.

The two military chiefs agreed on a cease-fire and withdrawal of Thai and Laotian troops three kilometres from battle lines on the rugged, mountainous border between the Thai northern province of Phitsanulok and Laos' Sayaboury Province.

The pullback left the Laotians behind Heuang Nga River, which Bangkok insists is the correct borderline.

Chawalit earlier this week held the second round of talks with Sisavat in Vientiane.

Sarot Chawanawirat, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Thursday that Prem has ordered three meetings of senior government and military officials to discuss the conflict.

"All concerned parties in the government have been cooperating to deal with the problem," he said.

Prem Thursday proposed that Laos send a delegation to Bangkok on Monday for diplomatic talks to settle the border dispute. Vientiane has not responded to the Thai proposal yet.

Thai Ambassador to Laos Niran Phanuphong told THE NATION in a telephone interview that Laos may request to postpone the date of the Bangkok meeting, proposed by Prem.

"There is no problem for talks to be postponed for two or three days," he said, adding that Vientiane is selecting its chief delegation to be sent to Thailand.

In his letter to Kaysone Thursday, Prem said Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila will visit Vientiane to sign an agreement on talks with his Laotian counterpart Phoun Sipaseut, if Laos accepts the Thai proposal.

In Phitsanulok, Thai and Laotian troops yesterday continued to retrieve landmines and the bodies of their colleagues killed in the nearly four-month long battle.

Col Thawisak Khetsali, Thailand's chief delegate to a joint Thai-Laotian military commission, said each side is still searching for five of its soldiers' bodies.

Thai Army-trained military volunteers yesterday discovered a body of a Thai trooper, while the Laotians found five of their soldiers on Hill 1428 near Romklao village, he said.

Hill 1428 served as one of the fiercest battle-grounds between Thai and Laotian troops.

So far, Thai forces have retrieved 16 bodies out of 21 missing soldiers, said Thawisak, adding that the remaining bodies are on Hill 1182.

The Thai side turned over a Laotian body to Laos at Wat Phon Sawang Pattanaram at a Thai village which is also called Ban Muang Phrae in Na Haew District, Loei.

The two sides plan to build a helicopter pad on the hill to help the search, he said.

Military's Role in Border Fighting Criticized

BK270301 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
27 Feb 88 p 4

[Article by Banyat Thasaniyawet entitled: "Never Victorious, Never Defeated"]

[Text] Although the guns have been silenced in Ban Romklao and political negotiations are to commence between Thailand and Laos, the wounds of the war have obviously cut deep into the feelings of many Thais in general, creating a profound sense of uncertainty toward our national defence system.

There is no question that our combatants—be they paramilitary rangers who bore the brunt of the fighting in the beginning, the calvary men, the infantry units and the air men—have demonstrated a high degree of courage and determination despite the fact that they were fighting from an extremely disadvantageous position, charging the enemy through minefields and under intense enemy fire. But questions have inevitably been raised about the way the war was conducted, and, most crucially, about how the enemy could have slipped into our territory and built reinforced bunkers and trenches undetected.

Where were our border guards when the Laotians sneaked in? Were our military top brass complacent and involved too much in non-military affairs? Such were just a few of the standard questions posed by dissenters in the aftermath of the Ban Romklao incident.

Obviously, Ban Romklao was not the first incident in which Thai troops had to engage a foreign enemy well entrenched in Thai territory and had to pay a high price in both lives and material to push back the intruders. Several Thai troops were killed and maimed before they could dislodge entrenched Vietnamese soldiers from the hills in Chong Bok, Ubon Ratchathani, early last year.

In both cases, the intrusions were discovered only when enemy forces had already firmly entrenched themselves in seemingly impregnable positions that could be defended by only a small number of troops who could inflict high casualties to those attempting to seize them by force.

Sad to say, the tragic lesson of Chong Bok was quickly forgotten. Some dissenters noted that had the military been more alert in monitoring the borderline, Laotian intruders should not have been able to build reinforced bunkers and trenches on Thai soil.

Observers noted that the failure to detect the enemy in the first place did not appear to hurt the feelings of several patriotic Thais as much as the "show" put up by Gen Chawalit in the showdown in Bangkok as well as in Vientiane with his Laotian counterpart, Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Sisavat Keobounphan.

Both were portrayed on television and in the press embracing each other in a cheek-to-cheek bear-hug fashion and pouring out sweet rhetoric as if they had great affection for each other. Although it was meant for political gain, such portrayal came as a shocking disappointment to many patriotic hotheads whose nationalistic sentiment had been aroused by the army propaganda machine and who didn't expect to witness such a show just a few days after hundreds of Thai troops had been killed and maimed in the fighting.

The ceasefire agreement which stipulates that both Thai and Laotian forces have to pull back three kilometres from the contact line has also drawn sharp rebuke from some critics as well as members of the public who think it is humiliating for Thailand although it has virtually stopped the unnecessary killing.

Former prime minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot quickly labelled the ceasefire agreement a defeat for Thailand, he said he was also appalled by the hugging between Gen Chawalit and Gen Sisavat "as if they were longtime friends." Bangkok Governor Chamlong Simuang was also equally unhappy with the ceasefire, and privately confided that a reform was necessary in the Army and that the Army should detach themselves from non-military affairs in order to concentrate more on their duty.

One newspaper columnist openly questioned a ranking Army officer's complaint that the Army was running short of almost everything in its fighting with Laotian intruders. He noted that this was despite the fact that the

Army always got the lion's share of defence budget from the Government. Besides, the public was very sympathetic with the Army and wholeheartedly responded to calls for donations.

Many shared the same feeling of dissent apparently because they didn't expect the fighting to stop abruptly and a ceasefire accord reached in such a manner whereby Thailand would have to make a humiliating concession—that is to pull back three kilometres from the land which legitimately belongs to Thailand. This was contrary to repeated statements by the Army leadership that the intruders would be pushed back within a couple of days. But as the fighting dragged on and casualties mounted, it had become clear that the task was easier said than done.

The Foreign Ministry whose role was eclipsed by Gen Chawalit during the Bangkok ceasefire talks came up to defend the accord and deny criticism that it had been bypassed by the military. Spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat said in a press conference that all parties, including the Foreign Ministry, played a role and worked closely together to reach the ceasefire agreement. He also maintained that the Foreign Ministry had full knowledge of former prime minister Kriangsak Chamanan's secret diplomacy in Vientiane.

Some critics, however, saw Gen Chawalit's dominant role in the ceasefire talks last week as Vientiane's success in their attempt to drive a wedge between the military and the Foreign Ministry. They pointed out that Vientiane was quick to exploit the situation by reextending an invitation to Gen Chawalit to visit Vientiane. The invitation was accepted and the Army chief went.

Why Gen Chawalit had to visit Vientiane despite the fact that such a move was previously objected to by the Foreign Ministry partly because it disapproved the alleged undiplomatic approach by Laotian Ambassador Khamphan Simmalavong? Some critics, however, said that apart from paving the way for political talks Gen Chawalit might need some political achievement as well.

The Third Army Region has disclosed that over 100 Thai troops were killed in the fighting and several more have not been accounted for. The wounded were said to number over 1,000. Understandably, the casualties were the worst sustained by the Army, surpassing even the Non Mak Mun battle against Vietnamese intruders almost a decade ago.

As far as Laotian troops are concerned, their performance in the battlefield which has surprised many an observer should serve as a lesson to our military officers that they are a force which can no longer be underestimated although it is wellknown that they had the full backing of Vietnamese forces.

Some senior government officials have privately cast doubt on Gen Chawalit's wisdom in the conduct of the war and the ceasefire talks with the Laotians. United Democratic Party MP Sihanat Rucha has threatened to submit a motion to Parliament to grill the Government over the Ban Romklao incident when parliament reconvenes in April.

Given the widespread discontent and the political storm which is brewing, it appears that Gen Chawalit's future political prospects after his voluntary retirement this September may not be as smooth and bright as it had been prior to the Ban Romklao incident.

Leaflets Charge Incompetence

*BK270211 Bangkok THE NATION in English
27 Feb 88 p 1*

[Text] The army is investigating the recent distribution of leaflets critical of the military's role in the Thai-Lao border battle.

Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, army commander in chief, has ordered the army's intelligence officers to locate the origin of the leaflets, distributed earlier this week, said the army spokesman.

Maj Gen Narudon Detpradiyut said Chawalit is closely monitoring the investigation.

The leaflets charged senior military commanders with failing to coordinate the battle against Laotian troops occupying rugged, remote border hills.

They accused ACM (Air Chief Marshal) Woranat Aphichari, air force commander in chief, of mistakenly ordering air bombardment that killed about 200 Thai troops.

Denying the accusation, Narudon said the army, air force and border patrol police had worked closely together in the nearly four-month operation near Ban Romklao Village in Phitsanulok Province.

"In a military operation, such an incident could happen accidentally," said Narudon.

He said the leaflets were designed to create conflicts within the armed forces, which could demoralize soldiers in the battlefield.

Chawalit has ordered military officers not to worry about the charges since Thailand and Laos are working to normalize their relations, said Narudon.

He said the military is reviewing the Ban Romklao operation to evaluate its success and failure, and "may explain the findings to the public at an appropriate time."

Lt Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, assistant army commander in chief, yesterday denied reports that Thai troops had problems with transporting supplies during the fighting at Ban Romklao.

Suchinda, who is responsible for the army's logistics, said the Thai military has extensive experience in border fighting, especially along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

"We have learned a lot from the fighting near Chong Bok and Chong O-bok border passes. The terrain there was almost similar to Ban Romklao," said Suchinda.

Thai and Laotian troops earlier this month agreed to stop the border fighting, in which an estimated 700 soldiers have died.

Chawalit and Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of general staff of the Lao People's Army, signed a truce agreement in Bangkok on Feb 17.

Thai Bombing Casualties Admitted

BK280208 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
28 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] An undisclosed number of Thai soldiers were injured, and possibly some were killed, by bombs dropped from Thai warplanes over the battle front near Ban Romklao, according to a senior Thai army officer.

Maj Gen Pairot Chanurai, commander of the First Armoured Cavalry Task Force, said some of his men at the front were injured during the air raid because they were very close to the Lao positions.

However, he dismissed a claim in mysterious leaflets that as many as 200 cavalymen were killed by mistake of the Thai air force bombers.

"That (the claim) is an exaggeration," he told reporters.

Asked whether the number of cavalymen killed was about 70 as some unconfirmed reports had said, Maj Gen Pairot said "No, not that many either."

"Let me emphasize one thing: All of us tried to do our duties for the country. It is useless to accuse anyone for not doing his job," he added.

The cavalry commander's comment came in the wake of the mysterious leaflets, signed by "Cavalymen of Romklao" and sent to newspaper offices in Bangkok. The leaflets severely criticized the air force, especially Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Woranat Aphichari, for alleged incompetency and blunders in bombing Thai troops at the front.

"We should be talking only about facts, not fiction. And I have reported all facts to the commander of the Third Army Region," Maj Gen Pairot said.

ACM Woranat yesterday strongly denied that his men had bombed any Thai positions by mistake. "Everytime our men went out on a mission, they would closely coordinate with their army counterparts on the ground near the front," he told reporters at the Royal Thai Air Force headquarters.

"I have seen the leaflets but I don't believe they came from the cavalymen at Ban Romklao," he said.

"This looks like another attempt of some unscrupulous persons who want to instigate unrest and disunity in the country," he added.

ACM Voranat said the accusations in the leaflets didn't bother him much because they were not true.

"I think the army spokesman did the right thing when he came out to dismiss the leaflets," said the air force chief.

Army spokesman Maj Gen Narudon Detpradiyut has contended that the accusations in the leaflets were groundless and that there was no problem in the coordination between the army and the air force during the border battle.

Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut has already ordered the army's intelligence officers to trace the source of the mysterious leaflets.

Paper Lauds U.S. Envoy's Congressional Remarks

BK270211 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
27 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "New Creative Thinking To Make Hanoi Behave"]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Thailand William Brown told a congressional hearing Thursday that "new creative thinking" is needed in addressing the problem of Indo-chinese refugees more effectively. Brown as well as Jonathan Moore, U.S. coordinator for refugee affairs, reiterated that Hanoi is the root cause of the problem.

Brown blamed Hanoi's "oppression" of its own people for the current crisis of Vietnamese arriving on the Thai eastern coast in large numbers to seek asylum. He also warned of a recurrence of another refugee crisis in the not too distant future because Hanoi seems to be tolerating, if not actually encouraging, the flight of its own people.

We think Brown's description of the situation is correct, especially in his emphasis on the linkage between the refugee issue and other issues in the Thai-U.S. relations. His call for U.S. leadership of the international efforts in dealing with the refugee problem deserves immediate attention of the Reagan Administration.

Many practical measures can be implemented without much difficulty. For example, the refugee screening process should be adjusted to give a higher priority to the long-stayers over the new arrivals. This could deter Vietnamese economic migrants, who face no physical harm or direct persecution by Vietnamese authorities, from leaving the country to take advantage of the resettlement programme.

Taking a larger number of refugees, particularly those so-called "long-stayers," from camps in Thailand for resettlement is a sensible humanitarian move. At least it will end the plight of those who have been stranded here for years. About 69,000 of the 112,000 Indochinese have been in the Thai camps for over three years.

It will also give some assurance to Thailand, which has steadfastly ruled out local integration of the longstayers, that the kingdom will not be left with a growing number of "unwanted" Indochinese. This, in turn, will justify providing first asylum to new arrivals.

Since resettlement is the most expensive and least efficient solution, and local integration is out of the question, voluntary repatriation is the only viable alternative to residing indefinitely in the camps.

Some refugees from Laos have been sent back under a repatriation programme. But political considerations have prevented a similar repatriation programme for Khmers.

As for the Vietnamese refugees, most of them don't want to go back. Hanoi, on the other hand, has maintained that Vietnam is not yet ready because the repatriated Vietnamese will face the same "problems" that drove them out of the country.

This is why Ambassador Brown is calling for new creative thinking. The U.S. policy toward Vietnam has been tied to the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea. The U.S. has refused to normalize relations with Vietnam because of the Vietnamese aggression in Kampuchea and has led a Western economic boycott against Vietnam.

But in less than three years' time, the occupation of Kampuchea will end, at least this is what Hanoi has said all along. The economic boycott has also been undermined by private trade with Vietnam of firms in South-east Asia and in the West.

The U.S. can now take the lead in urging the international community to link trade and economic contacts with Vietnam to Hanoi's behaviour towards its own people. Only when Hanoi conforms to international norms will it deserve acceptance in the international economic system.

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Briefs Envoys on Spratlys *BK261502 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Feb 88*

[Text] The representative of our Foreign Ministry recently met separately with ambassadors representing a number of countries bordering the Eastern Sea and various socialist and friendly countries to brief them on the Chinese Navy's recent acts of intruding into Vietnamese territory in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago, thus posing a serious threat to the security of Vietnam as well as of other countries bordering on the Eastern Sea, and creating tension and instability in Southeast Asia.

The representative of our Foreign Ministry reiterated the SRV Government's demand that the Chinese authorities immediately pull out their warships from Vietnam's territorial waters and put an immediate end to all acts violating Vietnam's territorial sovereignty.

Lawyers Group Issues Statement on Islands *BK290752 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.29—The Vietnam Lawyers' Association resolutely demands that China immediately withdraw their forces from the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago, stop all their activities in violation of Vietnam's sovereignty and quit the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago illegally occupied by them in January 1974 at variance with international laws.

This came in a statement released on February 27 by the Vietnam Lawyers' Association (V.L.A.) in protest against China's violation of Vietnamese's territorial sovereignty over the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa Archipelagoes.

After seriously condemning the Chinese authorities' recent activity violating Vietnamese territorial waters and reaffirming Vietnam's indisputable sovereignty over the two archipelagoes, the statement says:

"Vietnam's sovereignty over the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa Archipelagoes has been confirmed for many years and by many events. In particular, the white book issued by the Foreign Ministry on August 7, 1979 cited adequate historical and legal facts to prove that in conformity with international law the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa archipelagoes have long been Vietnamese territories, and that the Vietnamese state had occupied these two archipelagoes before they belonged to any country, and has continually and truly exercised its sovereignty over them."

The statement continues:

"The arrogant activities of the Chinese authorities crudely violate the territorial sovereignty of Vietnam, seriously threaten its security as well as peace and

security in the whole of Southeast Asia, breach the basic principles of international law and the United Nations' Charter, and run counter to the prevailing trend of detente and dialogue for peacefully solving all disputes in the region and throughout the world. Those activities can never be considered 'normal' and 'legal' as the Chinese authorities have described."

The statement draws the attention of all progressive lawyers in the region and the world, the peace-and justice-loving public as well as the responsible circles of the international community to the dangerous situation in the Truong Sa Archipelago caused by China's arrogant activities and calls on them to condemn and help stop those activities in furtherance of the principle of respecting the territorial sovereignty of all nations and for peace and security in Southeast Asia.

Also in recent days, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Vietnam Youth Union, and the Vietnam Students' Association have voiced their protest against China's violations of Vietnam's territorial sovereignty over the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa Archipelagoes and urged them to immediately withdraw from those areas.

VNA Carries Description of Archipelagoes
BK231543 Hanoi VNA in English 1521 GMT
23 Feb 88

["A Tour of Truong Sa Islands"—VNA headline]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 23—Vietnam has almost 3,000 offshore isles and islets. The Truong Sa archipelago (Spratley) belonging to Phu Khanh Province (central Vietnam) is a group of hundreds of coral islands sprinkled on a maritime area of 160,000-180,000 square kilometres. The first island in this string is Song Tu Tay covered with a green verdure of grass the dried root of which given a healing concoction. The island abounds in coconut palms, and also in birds, teals and seagulls.

Further south is Nam Yet. Occasionally, foreign merchant ships are seen plying between the two islands. On Nam Yet, the climate is summer in day time and autumn at night. The vegetation is particularly luxuriant. Nam Yet is the cradle of the banyan tree with cubic fruit. The trunks of some are so big that several men cannot link arms around them. Men of the island garrison have planted more trees to green their dwelling place.

Beside a large population of sea turtles the waters of this island also harbour holothurians, starfish and dolphins. The coral colonies provide a superb shelter for fish of diverse kinds.

Hundreds of metres from Song Tu Ai the largest island which gives the archipelago its name: Truong Sa. This island is a giant bird ground. Bird songs can be heard all day long. The birds would not fly off even when you are one step away.

Travelling further south visitors will reach An Bang Island situated at 8 degrees north latitude. By a starlit night when the wind blows hard but without rain visitors standing on ship deck can contemplate in complete silence the splendid moon and the imperceptible course of the Ursa Major in the vault of heaven. It is an incomparable experience to lie dreaming between water and sky.

Paper Outlines Islands' Geography, History
BK280630 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Numbering and quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.27—The central paper of the Communist Party of Vietnam, NHAN DAN, on February 26 released a summary chronology on the exercise of Vietnam's territorial sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa [Paracel and Spratly] Archipelagoes, whose security is now being threatened by the Chinese authorities violations. The document reads in full as follows :

1.Geographic location :

1.The Hoang Sa Archipelago: Vietnamese call the archipelago Hoang Sa which includes an island named Hoang Sa. To Western countries the archipelago is known as Paracels, and to China, it is Xisha.

The Hoang Sa Archipelago comprises about more than 30 islands, reefs and sandbanks formed in two groups: The eastern group, An Vinh, or Groupe d'Amphitrita, as known to the West; and the western group, Luoi Liem, or Groupe du Croissant.

The total area of the islands, reefs and sandbanks is about 10 square kilometers. The largest island is Lincoln Island, about 1.6 kilometers square.

The whole archipelago covers an area of about 15,000 square kilometers, situated approximately between 15 degree 45' and 17 degree 05' latitude north, 111 degree and 113 degree longitude east.

The archipelago is 170 nautical miles from the coastal town of Da Nang.

2. The Truong Sa Archipelago :

Vietnamese call this archipelago Truong Sa which includes an island called Truong Sa. The West calls it Spratley or Spratly, China calls it Nansha, the Philippines calls it Kalayaan which does not include Truong Sa Island. The Truong Sa Archipelago is made up by more than 100 islands, reefs, and sandbanks scattered over an area from 6 degree 50' to 12 degree latitude north and from 111 degree to 117 degree 20' longitude east. The

total area is from 160,000 to 180,000 square kilometers (ten times that of the Hoang Sa Archipelago). It is about 800 kilometers from east to west and about 600 kilometers from north to south.

The total visible area of the islands and reefs is about more than 10 square kilometers. The largest island is Ba Binh (Itu Aba).

The Truong Sa Archipelago is to the southeast of the Hoang Sa Archipelago. The shortest distance between it and Cam Ranh Bay is about 250 nautical miles.

The archipelago is made up by fossilized corals. It is bare of all vegetation but big deposits of bird's droppings and is rich in maritime produce and very possibly in oil.

2. Vietnam has maintained actual possession of, and continuously exercised its sovereignty, over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes.

"Up to the 18th century: A Hoang Sa 'team' and a Bac Hai 'team' were set up by the lords of Nguyen, with the former in charge for the exploitation and administration, as state power, of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes, which were then commonly called Hoang Sa or Bai Cat Vang (Yellow Sandbank) and Van Ly Truong Sa (Ten-Thousand League Sandbank) or Dai Truong Sa (Great Long Sandbank).

"1815: In the first month of the Lunar Year of the Pig, King Gia Long sent Pham Quang Anh, chief of the Hoang Sa team, to Hoang Sa to chart sea routes.

"1816: King Gia Long affirmed Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa Archipelago.

"1833-36: King Minh Mang repeatedly sent officers and sailors to Hoang Sa to set up markers, build temples and get cartological and hydrological data.

"1847: In the seventh year of his rule, King Thieu Tri endorsed a report from the Ministry of Public Works which says: "... As the Hoang Sa region is in our territorial waters, we should, according to common rules, send army vessels there to learn about sea routes...."

"1899: Paul Doumer, the Governor-General of Indochina, proposed that a lighthouse be built on Hoang Sa.

"1925: On March 3, Minister of War of the Hue Court Than Trong Hue affirmed: "Hoang Sa has long been in the possession of Vietnam. There is no question about that."

"1930: On April 14, the ship "La Malicieuse" commanded by Captain De Lattre set sail for the Truong Sa Archipelago, on order of the Governor-General of Indochina, to plant flags and markers for sovereignty.

"1933: On July 26, the French Government announced the French Navy's occupation of Truong Sa, An Bang, Ba Binh, Song Tu Dong, Song Tu Tay, Loai Ta, Thi Tu and other small islands, reefs and sandbanks in the Truong Sa Archipelago.

"On December 21, Governor-General of Cochinchina J. Krautheimer signed Decree 4762-CP, integrating the Truong Sa Archipelago into the Province of Ba Ria.

"1938: By an ordinance on March 30, Emperor Bao Dai endorsed the integration of the Hoang Sa Archipelago into the Province of Thua Thien.

"1939: By decree 3282 of May 5, Governor-General of Indochina Jules Brevie divided the Hoang Sa Archipelago into two administrative units.

"1949: The World Organization of Meteorology (WOM) officially recognized the weather stations built by the French on Hoang Sa and Truong Sa.

"1950: On October 14, the French Government officially transferred to the government of Emperor Bao Dai the administration and defence of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes. Governor of Annam (Central Vietnam) Phan Van Giao travelled to Hoang Sa to preside over the takeover.

"1951: On September 7 at the San Francisco conference attended by 51 countries, Tran Van Huu, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Bao Dai government, made a declaration affirming Vietnamese sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes.

"1956: On April 28, French forces withdrew from South Vietnam and the Central Command of the Armed Forces of the French Union was dissolved. Saigon armed forces were sent to the Hoang Sa Archipelago to relieve the French garrison. Taking advantage of the change, Beijing secretly sent its troops to occupy a group of islands in the eastern part of the Hoang Sa archipelago.

"1961: On July 13, the Saigon administration issued decree 174-NV integrating the archipelago, then called Dinh Hai commune, into Hoa Vang District, Quang Nam Province.

"1973: On September 6, the minister of the interior of the Saigon administration issued decision 420-BNV/26 to integrate the Truong Sa archipelago into Phuoc Hai commune, Dat Do District, Phuoc Tuy Province.

"1974: January 15-20, Beijing sent its troops to occupy the western part of the Hoang Sa archipelago, seizing the whole of Hoang Sa then under the control of the Saigon administration.

"The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam made clear its stand on this issue :

"National sovereignty and territorial integrity are sacred to any nation.

"Often there exist between neighbouring countries differences left by history concerning national borders and territories.

"Concerned countries should examine these questions in the spirit of equality, mutual respect, friendship and good neighbourhood, and resolve them through negotiations.

"1975: On February 14, the Foreign Ministry of the Saigon administration issued a white book on the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes, and a statement denouncing China for using force to occupy Vietnam's Hoang Sa archipelago.

"From April 14 to 29, Vietnam People's Navy liberated the islands of Truong Sa, Son Ca, Nam Yet, Song Tu Tay, Sinh Ton and An Bang, then occupied by Saigon troops. It subsequently deployed to nearby islands to defend Vietnam's Truong Sa Archipelago

"1977: on May 12, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam made public a statement on its territorial waters, contiguous zone, the special economic zones and continental shelves. The statement, in part five, says: Islands and archipelagoes belonging to Vietnam's territory and lying outside the territorial waters mentioned in article 1 also have their own territorial waters, contiguous zones, economic zones, and continental shelves, as stipulated in Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4 in this statement.'

"1978: During an official visit to Malaysia from October 12-16, Premier Pham Van Dong stated that the Truong Sa archipelago including An Bang island belonged to Vietnam, and that all conflicts or misunderstandings between the two countries should be settled through negotiations. "Earlier, on September 20: during an official visit to the Philippines on September 16-20, Premier Pham Van Dong reaffirmed Vietnam's sovereignty over the Truong Sa archipelago. He and President Ferdinand Marcos agreed that the two countries would settle all disputes through negotiations in the spirit of friendship and reconciliation.

"1980: On March 15, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry made public a memorandum on the Sino-Vietnamese border, article 9 of the memorandum denounces China's illegal attack on, and occupation of Vietnam's Hoang Sa archipelago in January 1974. "On Sept. 28 the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry published a white book containing 19 documents testifying to Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes.

"1981: On June 19, The People's Committee of the Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone made public Decision 359/QD/UB/DK on the trial of 15 Taiwanese seamen for intrusion into the Truong Sa archipelago of Vietnam. "In

December, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry made public a white book entitled "The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes—Vietnam's territory".

"1982: On February 21, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a statement protesting against the Taiwanese administration for arbitrarily putting the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes under its financial jurisdiction.

"On November 12: The Vietnamese Government issued a statement on the basic line for measuring the width of Vietnam's territorial waters.

"Point four of the statement says: "The basic line for measuring the width of the territorial waters of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes will be defined in a subsequent document, in line with the five points in the SRV Government's statement of May 12, 1977"

"On December 9, the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam issued Decision 193/HDBT to found, on December 19, Truong Sa District, which includes the whole of the Truong Sa Archipelago, and put it under the jurisdiction of Dong Nai Province. Up to that time, the Truong Sa Archipelago had been part of Dat Do District, Dong Nai Province.

"The Council of Ministers also issued Decision 194/HDBT to found, on Dec. 19, Hoang Sa District, which includes the whole of the Hoang Sa Archipelago, and put it under the jurisdiction of Quang Nam-Da Nang Province. Up to that time, the Hoang Sa archipelago had been part of Hoa Vang District, Quang Nam-Da Nang Province. "On December 28: A resolution of the fourth plenum of the Seventh National Assembly of the SRV integrated Truong Sa District into Phu Khanh Province. "1983: On May 6, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry made public a statement protesting against the People's Republic of China for giving Chinese names, as from April 25, to the islands, reefs and sandbanks in Vietnam's Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes.

"1984: On June 2, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a statement denouncing China for integrating the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes into Hainan Island.

"1987: On April 16, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry reaffirmed Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes in connection with the Chinese Foreign Ministry's statement on Jan. 15 about China's sovereignty over the Nansha (Truong Sa) Archipelago. "On June 14, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning China for repeatedly sending boats to the Truong Sa archipelago for surveys and other illegal activities, and most seriously, for a military exercise lasting from May 16 to June 6.

"1988: A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, in a statement on February 20, said that many Chinese warships were violating Vietnam's territorial waters outside the Trong Sa archipelago of Vietnam. The statement said that China's military activities in the Truong Sa archipelago threatened the security of Vietnam and other neighboring countries in the region and violated Vietnam's sovereignty over the Truong Sa archipelago."

From these main events and in the light of international law it is clear that the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes have long been part of Vietnam's territory because the Vietnamese state has owned these two archipelagoes since they were "res nullius" and because it has continued its sovereignty over them. The Vietnamese people are resolved to defend their territorial sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes.

Radio, Press Comment on Islands Controversy

Historical, Legal Claims

*BK291158 Hanoi International Service
in English 1000 GMT 29 Feb 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] To justify their provocative acts and violations in Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago waters of Vietnam, the Chinese side repeated their old ambition by claiming their sovereignty on that archipelago. However, they still have failed to produce any new evidence on their sovereignty over this area.

Historical realities and many legal documents have confirmed that Truong Sa and Hoang Sa Archipelagoes are part of Vietnam's territory. Hundreds of years ago, the Vietnamese feudal state was the first in history to possess, control, and exploit these archipelagoes. Here are some concrete evidences:

In 1816, King Gia Long affirmed Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa Archipelago. From 1833 to 1846, King Minh Mang repeatedly sent officers and sailors to Hoang Sa to set up markers, build temples, and gather stratological and hydrological data. In 1847, the seventh year of his rule, King Thieu Tri endorsed a report from the Ministry of Public Works which said: As the Hoang Sa region is in our territorial waters, we should, according to common rules, send Army vessels there to learn about sea routes.

Besides these documents, Vietnam still has enough documents showing that during 100 years of domination, the French colonialists had considered Hoang Sa and Truong Sa as part of Vietnam's territory.

The truth is that after illegally occupying the Hoang Sa Archipelago of Vietnam, since April 1974, the Chinese authorities, with a long-term scheme to expand to the East Sea, have conducted many provocative activities

and violations in the Vietnamese waters. In 1987, they repeatedly carried out reconnaissance, survey, and military exercises and erected markers on the Nam Dong Reef.

Public opinion said that this action of China shows that the Chinese authorities have not given up their long-term scheme to expand to the East Sea to violate Vietnam's territorial sovereignty, thus jeopardizing the security of Vietnam and other nations on the rim of the East Sea and Southeast Asia.

At present, following the meetings between Chairman Hun Sen and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the deadlock in the Kampuchea issue is being solved in keeping with the trend of national reconciliation. The Thai-Lao border conflict in Nabo Noi area is also being settled by peaceful negotiations. In this situation, China's provocative action violating the sovereignty and threatening the security of Vietnam shows that the Chinese authorities are running counter to the trend of detente in the region. They want to cause tension to prevent the trend of dialogue aimed at solving disputes in the region.

The Vietnamese people as well as public opinion in the region are vigilant and determined to prevent China from carrying out their wicked scheme.

Paper Condemns PRC Actions

*BK281110 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 27 Feb 88*

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 26 February commentary: "Resolutely Defend National Sovereignty over Hoang Sa and Truong Sa"]

[Text] Since early 1988, Chinese authorities have sent a number of warships to encroach on Vietnam's territorial waters. In recent days in particular, Chinese warships conducted military activities in violation of our sovereignty over two submerged reefs in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago that is part of our fatherland's sacred territory. Chinese warships also acted provocatively in preventing Vietnamese transport vessels from carrying out their normal duties in their home waters. Afterward, the Chinese side continued to send many more warships to that area, seriously threatening Vietnam's security.

Along with these provocations, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry on 22 February groundlessly claimed that China has the right to conduct military exercises and patrol activities around the Truong Sa Archipelago because Truong Sa has always been part of Chinese territory.

First of all, it is necessary to affirm that Vietnam's sovereignty over the two archipelagoes of Truong Sa and Hoang Sa [Paracel] is indisputable and irreversible truth. Vietnam's historical documents—including geography books and official history books compiled by the

National History Institute of the feudal Vietnamese state or written by the famous scientist Le Qui Don, ancient maps such as the Map of Central and Southern Routes to the Four Directions [Trung Nam Tuvs Chi Looj Doof Thuw] dating from the 17th century and the Complete Map of Unified Great Vietnam [Dqaij Nam Nhaats Thoongs Toanf Dqoof] from early in the 19th century, and ordinances and decrees issued by the state on the establishment of administrative units—together with the fact that for many centuries, the feudal Vietnamese state powers, in their sovereign capacity, successively conducted topographical surveys and exploited natural resources at these two archipelagoes in an organized manner, have proved the following:

1. The Vietnamese state was the first to occupy the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes;
2. For several centuries since then Vietnam has exercised its state functions regarding its sovereignty over the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa; and
3. The Vietnamese state has always actively defended its rights and name against all schemes and acts of violation against Vietnam's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and interests over the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa.

All this shows very clearly that Vietnam has full evidence to meet all the legal criteria that are broadly recognized worldwide for asserting its territorial sovereignty over the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa.

Nevertheless, in the mid-1950's, in an attempt to violate Vietnam's territory and to expand in the Eastern Sea and nibble at countries in Southeast Asia, the Beijing authorities sent troops to occupy the island group northeast of the Hoang Sa Archipelago. On 19 January 1974, Chinese troops also occupied the group southwest of the Hoang Sa Archipelago which was then under the Saigon administration's control. The Chinese authorities also brazenly claimed sovereignty over the Truong Sa Archipelago and made every effort to annex it.

Over the past years, especially since 1987, the Chinese have conducted such military activities as reconnaissance, war games, surveying, and marker planting in a number of areas in Vietnam's Truong Sa Archipelago. In order to justify its dark schemes, the Chinese have tried by every means to misrepresent many historical documents by framing up the so-called Xisha Archipelago, which is the Hoang Sa Archipelago, and the Nansha Archipelago, which is the Truong Sa Archipelago, and claiming sovereignty over these archipelagoes which belong to Vietnam.

Nevertheless, the truth remains unchanged, that is, contrary to what the Chinese continue to claim, the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes have never belonged to China but have been an inseparable part of Vietnam for many centuries now.

The Chinese Navy's recent activities in Vietnam's Truong Sa Archipelago not only pose a threat to Vietnam's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity but also constitute an infringement of international law. This is a new step in China's dark scheme of violating Vietnamese territory and expanding to the Eastern Sea, thus threatening the interests of the Eastern Sea rim countries and countries in Southeast Asia.

Beijing's dark schemes are putting the world public on guard. Vietnam earnestly wants to improve its relations with the PRC and to restore the traditional Chinese-Vietnamese friendship in the interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region and the world as a whole. At the same time, our Armed Forces and people are determined to defend the fatherland's sacred territorial sovereignty. We have never encroached upon anybody's territory and are also resolved not to let anyone violate our territory. The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes belong to our fatherland's territory and constitute a sacred inheritance from our ancestors. Therefore, we are determined to defend them.

Ever since 1975, cadres and combatants of our Armed Forces have overcome countless difficulties and hardships and held fast to the Truong Sa Archipelago. During these challenging days, the fatherland's beloved sons and daughters, determined to uphold the revolutionary spirit and displaying deep patriotism, have remained constantly vigilant and combat-ready in order to defend every inch of land of the fatherland.

All localities, sectors, and echelons nationwide are turning to Truong Sa and are competing with our combatants in the Truong Sa Archipelago in scoring many achievements in the movement for the successful implementation of the two strategic objectives, namely socialist construction and defense of the socialist fatherland.

We vehemently condemn the aforementioned provocative acts of the Chinese authorities and demand that they withdraw their warships from the Truong Sa Archipelago and immediately put an end to their violations of Vietnam's territorial sovereignty.

The Chinese authorities must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their acts.

BBC Cites PRC Expert on Nuclear Weapons
OW271234 Hanoi International Service
in Mandarin 1130 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] According to a BBC report, China has declared that it will not launch a nuclear first strike but will retaliate by using its nuclear guided missiles to attack the other side's populated areas. The remark was made by a Chinese nuclear expert at a forum held in Boston, in the United States.

Another expert, who is an official of the General Staff headquarters of the Chinese Army, also confirmed that China will continue nuclear testing so long as its nuclear weapons are not as advanced as those of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Hanoi Celebrates Past Victory Over Chinese

*BK211609 Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT
21 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 21—The party committee and the people's committee of Dong Da Precinct, Hanoi, held a ceremony here today in celebration of the 199th anniversary of the historic Dong Da victory over the Qing aggressor army.

Speaking at the ceremony attended by tens of thousands of Hanoians, Mrs Nguyen Thi Loc, vice-chairman of the precinct's people's committee, recalled the historic victory of the national hero Nguyen Hue 199 years ago, and the victory of the Tet offensive against the U.S.-Saigon regime 20 years ago, describing those victories as adding golden pages to the nation's history of struggle against foreign aggressions.

The ceremony was followed by art performances and sport activities welcoming the Lunar New Year.

Nguyen Huu Tho Attends Victory Meeting

*BK280914 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 26 Feb 88*

[Text] A event known as Quang Trung Gala Night was held recently at the Thong Nhat conference hall in Ho Chi Minh City to honor the 199th anniversary of the Quang Trung popular force's glorious feat-of-arms in the early Spring of 1789 and to mark the end of the drive to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Mau Than Victory.

Through a host of interesting items, the gala night helped revive the heroic character of the two historic antiaggression struggles.

In a jubilant and moving atmosphere, Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the State Council, solemnly awarded 39 orders of all kinds to various collectives and units in the Saigon-Gia Dinh Zone for their combat achievements between 1965 and 1973. Two Brass Fortress Orders, third class, were awarded to the Saigon city worker movement and cadres of Cu Chi District. Fourteen units, including various villages of Cu Chi, Hoc Mon, and Thu Duc Districts were granted Liberation Orders.

Meeting Supports Afghan, USSR Peace Proposal

*BK261605 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT
26 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 26—A meeting was held here this evening in support of the peace proposal made on February 8, 1988 by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

The meeting, sponsored by the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples, the Vietnam AAPSO Committee and the Vietnam-Afghanistan Friendship Association, was attended, among others, by Nguyen Canh Dinh, member of the C.P.V. Central Committee and president of the Vietnam-Afghanistan Friendship Association, and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, deputy head of the international department of the party Central Committee.

Afghan Ambassador Mohammad Shafi Azimi and representatives of the Soviet Embassy were also present.

Addressing the meeting, Nguyen Canh Dinh appraised the 8 February, 1988 peace proposal of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union as an indication of goodwill aimed at successfully speeding up the Geneva talks on a solution to the situation in Afghanistan and its vicinity which has for years been rendered tense by the hostile policy and the undeclared war of the imperialist and other reactionary forces. This initiative opens up a great prospect for a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan, ensuring a peaceful life for the Afghan people and establishing peace in Southwest Asia, Nguyen Canh Dinh said.

He reaffirmed Vietnamese people's full support for the constructive stance and goodwill of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, describing it as a great contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

Moscow Committee Delegation Visits Hanoi

*BK271549 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT
27 Feb 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 27—A delegation of the party committee and the Soviet of Moscow led by O.A. Korolev, secretary of the Moscow party committee visited Hanoi from 23 to 27 February.

The Soviet guests were cordially received by Nguyen Duc Tam, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

Nguyen Thanh Binh, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Hanoi party committee conferred with the delegation on the relations and cooperation between the two cities.

The two sides signed an agreement on their political relations and labor cooperation in planting and processing vegetables and coffee from now till the year 1991. On

labor cooperation in 1988, Moscow will receive 3,650 workers for working in the tailoring, engineering, building, and fish processing branches.

VNA Reports Le Duc Anh's Visit to USSR
BK271537 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT
27 Feb 88

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Feb 27—A delegation of the Vietnam People's Army led by General Le Duc Anh, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and defence minister, visited the Soviet Union from February 21-24 on the occasion of the celebration of the 70th Soviet Army and Navy Day. The delegation paid floral tributes at the Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was received by General Dmitriy Yazov, Soviet defence minister, and was presented by him souvenir badges marking "The 70 Years of the Soviet Armed Forces." The Vietnamese guests attended a meeting held at the

Kremlin Palace and a banquet hosted by the Soviet defence minister in honour of the anniversary. They also called at the Central Museum of Soviet Armed Forces.

Briefs

Building Projects Suspended

In order to carry out its policy of practicing thrift, the Ministry of Communications and Transportation has recently decided to suspend 15 projects, mostly construction of office buildings for various sectors totalling 11,150 square meters. This decision has helped to save 5-10 percent of the ministry's consumption of fuel and steel bars. The ministry also urged grass-roots units to produce more construction materials, build more roads, and provide more jobs for local workers. The ministry's communications enterprise No 4 recently built 10 km of roads and established 2.5 km of telephone line for a rural locality. [Summary] *[Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Feb 88 BK]*

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1 March 1988

